TRENT ALEXANDER-ARNOLD • JÜRGEN'S BEST BITS • MERSEYSIDE DERBY • CAOIMHIN KELLEHER

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AXA



KLOPP & CO TAKE THE **FIFA AWARDS** BY STORM

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STEP IT UP, LADS

Another day, another drill at Melwood as the Liverpool first-team are put through their paces by Jürgen Klopp's coaching staff. Training is tough, notoriously so, but the unity within this group of players is there for all to see.



RAIN STOPS PLAY

A pause in proceedings at Bramall Lane allows a moment of rainsoaked reflection for strike-partners Sadio Mane and Mo Salah, with Liverpool fighting hard to secure another victory in the Premier League. Against Sheffield United it wasn't the Reds' best performance of the season, but results like these – away to a tough opponent in adverse conditions – are absolutely priceless.



BEST IN CLASS

Jürgen Klopp doesn't like winning individual awards, so his acceptance speech at the Best FIFA Football Awards was short and sweet, but the manager's words were fascinating as always





Jürgen Klopp is the best manager in the world. You knew that already, but now FIFA have realised it as well by naming the Liverpool manager as the Best FIFA Men's Coach 2019 during a glittering awards ceremony at Milan's famous Teatro Alla Scala.

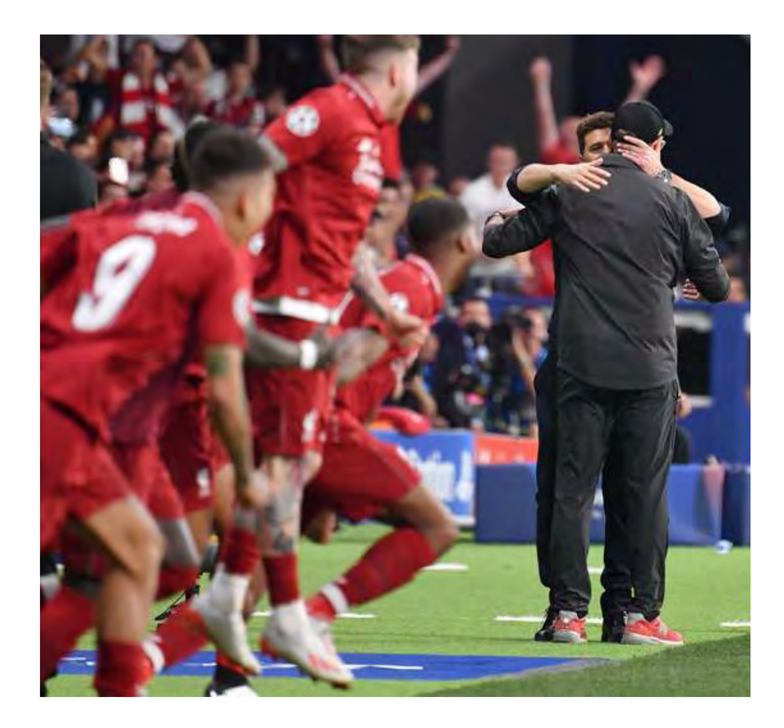
Klopp beat off competition from Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola and Tottenham's Mauricio Pochettino to be awarded the prestigious honour after leading Liverpool to glory in the Champions League, UEFA Super Cup and accumulating a club-record 97 points in the Premier League in 2019.

Reds keeper Alisson also received the Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper 2019 award and was voted into the FIFA FIFPro Men's World11 alongside Anfield team-mate Virgil van Dijk. But there was widespread surprise that Trent Alexander-Arnold and Andy Robertson weren't named in the team – voted for by thousands of professional footballers around the world – with Real Madrid duo Sergio Ramos and Marcelo selected ahead of them at full-back.

Virgil was nominated for the Best FIFA Men's Player 2019 award alongside Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, but the big Dutchman failed to add to his UEFA Men's Player of the Year honour after being pipped by the Barcelona skipper. Sadio Mane and Mo Salah were both top-ten candidates.

Klopp, dressed in a dinner suit and bow tie, was understandably delighted to win the award for best coach and gave a two-minute acceptance speech inside the 2,000-capacity opera house, which opened in 1778.

He thanked a variety of people, from his family at home to colleagues at LFC, and announced that he had joined Common Goal – an initiative set up by Manchester United midfielder Juan Mata in 2017 where footballers and coaches donate one per cent of their salary to charity.



Here is the Liverpool manager's speech in full...

"Sorry! [after knocking the microphone with his trophy to laugher in the audience]. Wow! It's quite heavy!

"Yeah, what can I say? I have to say thank you to a lot of people, obviously. I have to start at the beginning with my family, sitting at home and probably watching it. It's great. Nobody would have expected that I stand here 20 years ago, ten years ago, five years ago, four years ago, probably. And how close it can be.

"Mauricio, we won that game [the Champions League final], that's why I'm here not you. So that's how football is. But we all know what an incredible job you did, what an incredible job Pep did, what so many coaches out there did.

"Coming back to saying thank you, I have to say thank you to my outstanding club Liverpool FC. Who doesn't love it, has no heart, haha! No that's not true – you can love other clubs as well!

"But to the owners, I have to say they gave me an incredible team, Mike Gordon in particular. And I have to thank my team because as a coach, you can only be as good as your team is. The potential of your team is one, what they make of it is the other. So I'm really proud of being the manager of such an incredible bunch of players.

"I don't want to make it longer than it should be, but at the end I want to use that stage to say one thing. This today is an individual prize. I don't understand 100 per cent individual prizes, but I get it, because I am here for a lot of people.

"But we are all on the really good side of life, obviously. That's why we are here. The past was great, the present is really good, the future hopefully will be good for us as well. But there are people out there, they have not exactly the same situation.

"I am really proud and happy that I can announce from today on I'm a member of the Common Goal family [applause].

"Thank you very much for the applause. A few people obviously know it, if not Google it. It's a great thing. I wish you a wonderful night, thank you very much. See you all."

FIFA's awards ceremony came just a day after Liverpool had beaten Chelsea 2-1 at Stamford Bridge in the Premier League, Klopp's 150th league game as Liverpool boss.

It was an afternoon when the Reds won a club-record seventh away league game on the bounce, and extended their club-record winning streak in all league games to 15. They also became the first-ever top-flight club to start consecutive seasons with six consecutive victories.

So, to mark the fourth anniversary since Jürgen Klopp took charge of Liverpool Football Club on 8th October 2015, read on for 19 of our favourite moments from the Best FIFA Men's Coach 2019...


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THE KLOPP 19

Words:
Chris McLoughlin

The personal moments that have defined the manager's tenure so far as King of the Kop



1. THE NORMAL ONE

Jürgen Klopp was unveiled as Liverpool FC manager on Thursday 8 October 2015 at a packed press-conference inside what-was-then the Centenary Stand and the media men were looking for a soundbite.

He told LFCTV in an exclusive interview that his message for Liverpool supporters was: "We have to change from doubter to believer."

But it was when he was asked by a pressman how he would describe himself in comparison to Jose Mourinho referring to himself as "the special one" that he made his famous quote. "I am a totally normal guy," he said, "I am the normal one, maybe."

Perhaps so, but there's nothing normal about the Liverpool team he's built since.



2. SMASH & GRAB

Even during Klopp's first season in charge the Reds had a knack of racking up goals in away games. Four at Man City, six at Southampton, six at Aston Villa, but it was during a crazy 5-4 win at Norwich City when celebratory carnage on the touchline resulted in his trademark glasses being broken.

Sebastian Bassong's 90th-minute leveller appeared to have given the Canaries a 4-4 draw, but when Adam Lallana fired in a 95th minute clincher he, and his team-mates, ran to the touchline to celebrate with Liverpool boss. During the ensuing melee, Klopp's glasses took a hit.

"I have a second pair of glasses, but I can't find them," he said. "It's hard to find glasses without glasses." He did identify the culprit though.

"It was Christian Benteke who did it," he said in an interview following Benteke's departure to Crystal Palace. "So don't kill my glasses or otherwise you will be sold!"

3. WE ARE LIVERPOOL

Klopp had been Liverpool manager for two months when the Reds took on West Bromwich Albion at Anfield. They didn't play well, but a deflected 95th minute equaliser from Divock Origi earned Liverpool a 2-2 draw.

Klopp came onto the pitch at full-time, lined his players up in front of the Kop and got them to link arms before raising them towards the fans, a traditional celebration in Germany. "It was the best atmosphere in my time in England, absolutely great, and I wanted to say thank you," he said. "I enjoyed the atmosphere with my whole body."

Inevitably there were those who criticised Klopp or made fun of the situation, suggesting celebrating a 2-2 draw against West Brom was a sign of slipping standards, but it proved to be a symbolic moment.

That gesture of unity was the Liverpool manager saying to Anfield: stick with us, be in it together, and we'll get results. It worked.

With a galvanized crowd turning from doubter to believer, Liverpool have only lost three league games at Anfield since that 2-2 draw in December 2015 – and none since April 2017.

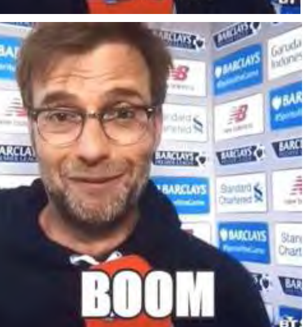
They've never lost a European game at Anfield under Klopp's management, have produced memorable last-minute winners (not least against Borussia Dortmund and Everton) and turned Anfield into a fortress.

It all started with that 2-2 draw against the Albion.













4. BOOM!

Outside of traditional derbies, Liverpool v Manchester City is currently the biggest rivalry in English football. The two clubs fought the most relentless title race in top-flight history last season and have gone head-to-head in big cup games, City winning the 2016 League Cup final and the Reds knocking the Mancunians out of the 2017/18 Champions League.

The first time the two clubs met at Anfield during Klopp's era as LFC boss was in March 2016 and led to one of his most famous post-match quotes. Jürgen had just seen his side win 3-0, courtesy of goals from Adam Lallana, James Milner and Bobby Firmino, when he was asked by BT Sport's Des Kelly how the victory ranked in his short time at Liverpool. "It was the best for sure, the best home game, but the best word I can say to describe this is BOOM!"

Three years on and the number of GIFs and YouTube videos featuring that Klopp boom continues to grow.

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5. DAY IN THE LIFE

The day after Liverpool knocked Manchester United out of the UEFA Europa League in the first-ever European clash between the two clubs in March 2016 – a round-of-16 tie and an encounter with so much historically at stake – Jürgen gave a press conference at Melwood ahead of a subsequent Premier League game at Southampton.

He rocked up wearing a classic Beatles t-shirt, although it didn't have *Lucas in the Sky With Diamonds* or *Lovren Me Do* on the front! "My mother said it, my father said it: Number 1 are the Beatles," he explained.

In 2018, after the 7-0 Champions League win against Spartak Moscow, a journalist compared Liverpool's front-four to John, Paul, George and Ringo before asking Klopp who his favourite Beatle was?

"Paul," he replied.

"Mane, Salah, Firmino or Coutinho?" was the next question.

"Still Paul!" he said with a laugh.

"What can I say? I like them all."







6. BOWLED OVER

Crown green bowls is a quintessentially English sport that has existed in England and Wales since the start of the last century. There are over 200,000 registered players in the UK and in autumn 2016 the boss joined some of them at Holy Trinity Bowling Club in Formby, the town he lives in.

"I got attracted to this game when I was 16 on a school exchange in Luton. Two weeks in Luton! In the Commonwealth Games I watched it and I thought: what the....is this?!"

Playing alongside LFC season-ticket holder Lesley, against Reds fans Peter and Adrian, Jürgen got the first end underway by announcing "Let's play bowls" and was later heard shouting 'Boom!" while punching the air after Lesley got her bowl closest to the jack. They lost 21-3.



7. THIS IS ANFIELD

Bill Shankly was a master of using psychology to gain an advantage. Putting up the legendary *This Is Anfield* sign "to remind the opposition who they are playing against" is the most famous example, and he also had an input on the rebuilding of the Main Stand in 1973, having Anfield's club gymnasium moved to Melwood so his team could train on one site.

In 2016, Jürgen put his own stamp on Anfield. He sat with architects to help design the new Main Stand dressing-rooms and tunnel having already told his players to break with a Liverpool tradition. "I've told my players not to touch the *This Is Anfield* sign until they win something. It's a sign of respect."

Perhaps his biggest psychological move came in September 2016 after he held a training session at Anfield ahead of the new Main Stand opening. "Following the workout, Jürgen Klopp and his backroom team asked groundstaff to change the nets from red to white to make them more visible in the players' peripheral vision," reported liverpoolfc.com. "With the majority of fans behind both goals wearing red, it was felt the previous coloured netting wasn't as striking to the eye as white in the thick of the action on the pitch."

Roy Evans had previously had the white nets installed in 1995 for the same reason after the Kop was made all-seater, but in a nod to tradition Brendan Rodgers had reinstated the much-loved red ones in 2012.

Liverpool's goalscoring form at Anfield since Jürgen's change suggests it was a change for the better.

8. DIDGERI-DON'T!

In May 2017 Liverpool celebrated qualifying for the Champions League with a trip Down Under to play a post-season friendly against Sydney FC at the ANZ Stadium. Never one to shy away, Jürgen immersed himself in some traditional Australian culture by dancing with aboriginals, throwing a spear and boomerang, and blowing a didgeridoo.

"I enjoyed it a lot, it was fantastic," he told LFCTV after a spot of spear-throwing. "I have a lot of skills, but I would say if I had been the main hunter in whichever group, no chance of a wife then!"







9. THIS MEANS MORE

In season 2018/19 Liverpool Football Club launched their *This Means More* marketing campaign showcased by an emotive video explaining why Liverpool means more.

Asking Jürgen Klopp to narrate it was a stroke of genius. It makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand up…

"This is Anfield. These are out streets. These are our routines. This is our home. These are our Saturdays. Our nights after school. These are our colours, our flags, our pubs, our gates, our mates, our crest, our words which stand alone.

"This [Bill Shankly] is the man who started it all. And this was his favourite place. This is the Kop, where we taught the rest how to sing. This is the pitch, where we once watched the King. These are the stairs we walked up hand in hand. And these are the lights that light up the dark.

"These are the good times. And these are the bad times. This is what doubt looks like. This is how heartbreak feels. And this is how you fight back. This is refusing to know when you are down. This is support, this is community, this is solidarity. This is how you hold your head up high when the storm is all around you. This is how you fight for what you believe in when everyone else doubts you.



"This is the first time, this is the 100th time. These are the reasons to look forward, to the end of the shift, to the end of the week, to the end of the storm. This is the team we will always adore.

"For others it's sport, for us it's a way of life. They have a stadium, we have a home. They have songs, we an anthem. They have a manager, we have a guardian. They have supporters, we are a family.

"We are Liverpool. This means more."



10. "I ORDER A SONG FOR BOBBY"

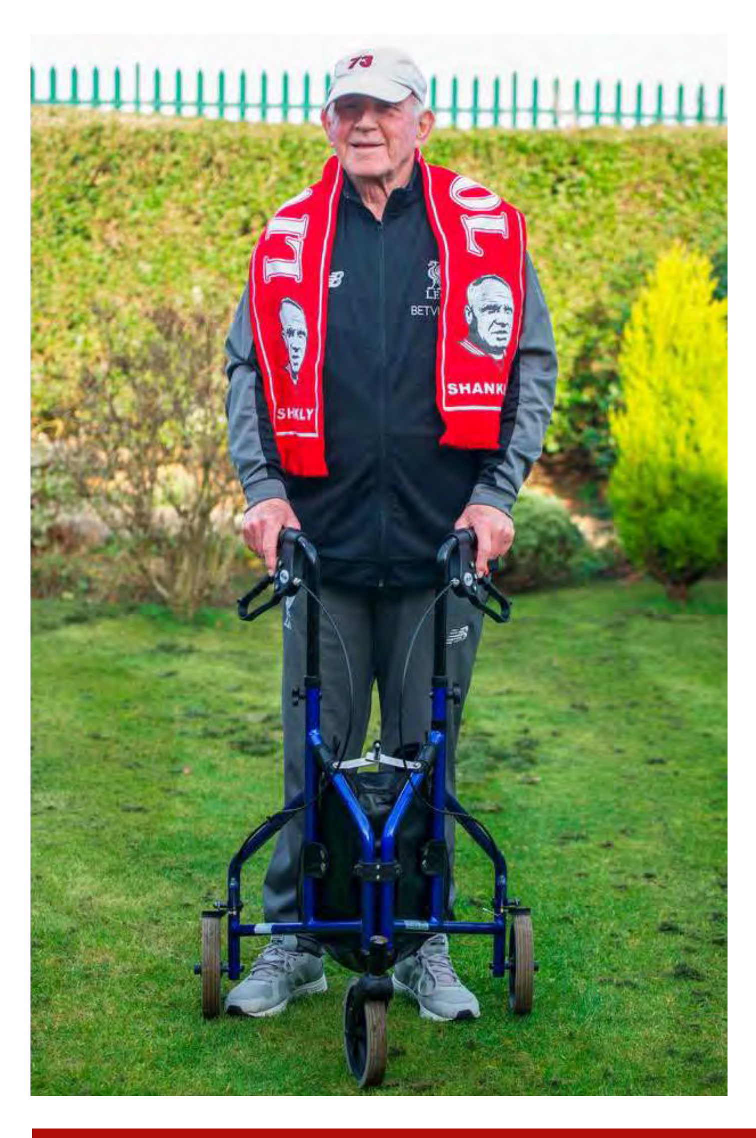
Ahead of the 2018 Champions League final in Kiev, Jürgen was asked, not for the first time, about his brilliant front-three. "All of them, they are so creative. Unbelievable.

"The only thing…the Mo Salah song is obviously fantastic, but do we already have a Bobby Firmino song? It is only 'Bobby Firmino,' right? That's not a song. Hello? So I think he really deserves a song. I order a song for Bobby!"

He said it with a smile on his face, but Kopites took note and six months later, when Liverpool travelled to Belgrade to play Red Star, the now famous Si Senor song was born after Reds supporter Ben Stevenson heard the tune De la Mano del Muneco being sung by River Plate fans in Argentina and reworked it.

"Jürgen asked for a Bobby one last season, so we just thought it was a bit of a laugh," recalled Ben. "We started singing it on the bus from the city-centre to the ground, a load of young lads at the back of the bus cottoned on to it, and it all got going from there. The videos started going round and we were like, no way – that's caught on."

Like wildfire. And Bobby now has 'SISENOR' stitched onto his boots.



11. ONE FOR ARTHUR

Arthur Edwards has been a Liverpool season-ticket holder for 73 years, but when he suffered a stroke in September 2018 the 80-year-old Halewood-based Red was unable to access his usual seat at Anfield due to needing a wheelchair.

It forced him to miss a string of games until his daughter Sandra wrote to Jürgen Klopp explaining the situation. "I don't know if he read it," Sandra told the *Liverpool Echo*, "but I went to my dad's and he said Liverpool had rung him saying he could go to the Bayern Munich game. He was like a little boy waiting for a party."

12. PURE PASSION

Anfield has enjoyed some wild celebrations during Jürgen Klopp's four years as Liverpool manager but perhaps the wildest of all came when Divock Origi headed in a 96th-minute winner in front of the Kop against Everton in December 2018.

The lateness of the goal, the unusual manner in which it came, the size of the game and because it was a Merseyside derby prompted all kinds of scenes in the stands. The Liverpool manager also got caught up in the emotion, sprinting onto the pitch and jumping into the arms of goalkeeper Alisson. "Look at Jürgen Klopp!" screamed Sky Sports commentator Jamie Carragher.

Jürgen apologised to Everton boss Marco Silva afterwards – "I didn't want to be disrespectful" – but admitted it was a moment of pure emotion. "I couldn't stop myself. The plan was not to run. When I nearly stopped I was close to Alisson. He was surprised, you should have seen his eyes!"

13. "THIS LIVERPOOL NEVER QUITS"

Liverpool 4 Barcelona 0. Perhaps Anfield's greatest-ever night. When Trent Alexander-Arnold caught the Barca defence napping with a quickly-taken corner and Divock Origi sent the Reds to Madrid, it all happened so quickly that not everyone saw it. Including Jürgen Klopp.

"I saw the ball go out for a corner. I saw Trent walking over to take it. I saw Shaqiri following him. But then I turned my back because we were preparing to make a substitution. I just heard the noise. I turned to the pitch and I saw the ball flying into the goal. Anfield was going – boof – absolutely crazy. I could barely hear my assistant, and he was yelling, 'So...do we still make the substitute?' Hahahaha! I will never forget him saying that!"

Klopp's pre-match rallying call in the matchday programme was Shankly-esque: "This Liverpool never stops. This Liverpool never quits. This Liverpool gives everything at all times. Whatever happens this Liverpool leaves it all on the pitch and nothing left for regrets. We don't do 'if only'."

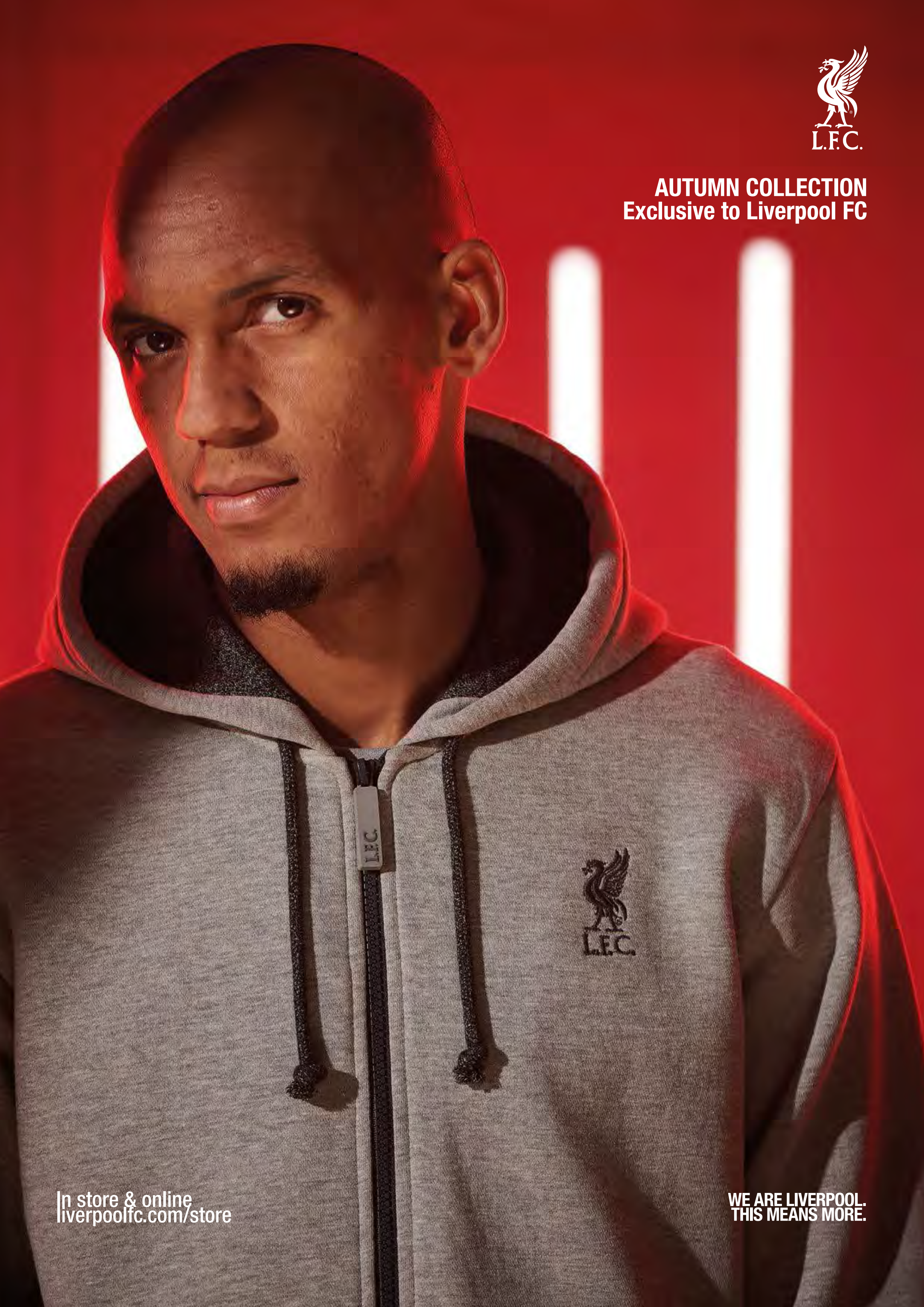


14. PUMP IT UP

Whatever the result of a game the Redmen have just played in, Klopp never hides. He is always a visual presence, walking onto the pitch to hug his players, shake opponents' hands and applaud Liverpool supporters at Anfield or the travelling Kop, wherever they may be.

When the Reds win, we all win, and when Liverpool were racking up win after win during the Premier League last season Klopp introduced a regular post-match celebration to his routine. He'd stride towards the Kop then suddenly give three heart-felt fist-pumps, each greeted by huge cheers.

We've yet to see the fist-pumps in season 2019/20, but if they return it will be a sign that the Reds are doing well.


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15. THEN BUMP IT UP!

Standing at just under 6ft 3in tall, Jürgen Klopp is a tall Liverpool manager. But he still wasn't big enough to stop his players from picking him up and throwing him into the air following Liverpool's 2-0 Champions League final success against Spurs in Madrid.

Led by Dejan Lovren and Simon Mignolet, the players grabbed hold of Klopp on the Estadio Metropolitano pitch, raised him above their heads and threw him into the air three times to huge cheers from the travelling Kop.

It was a brilliant, funny moment, and showed the bond between Klopp and his players.





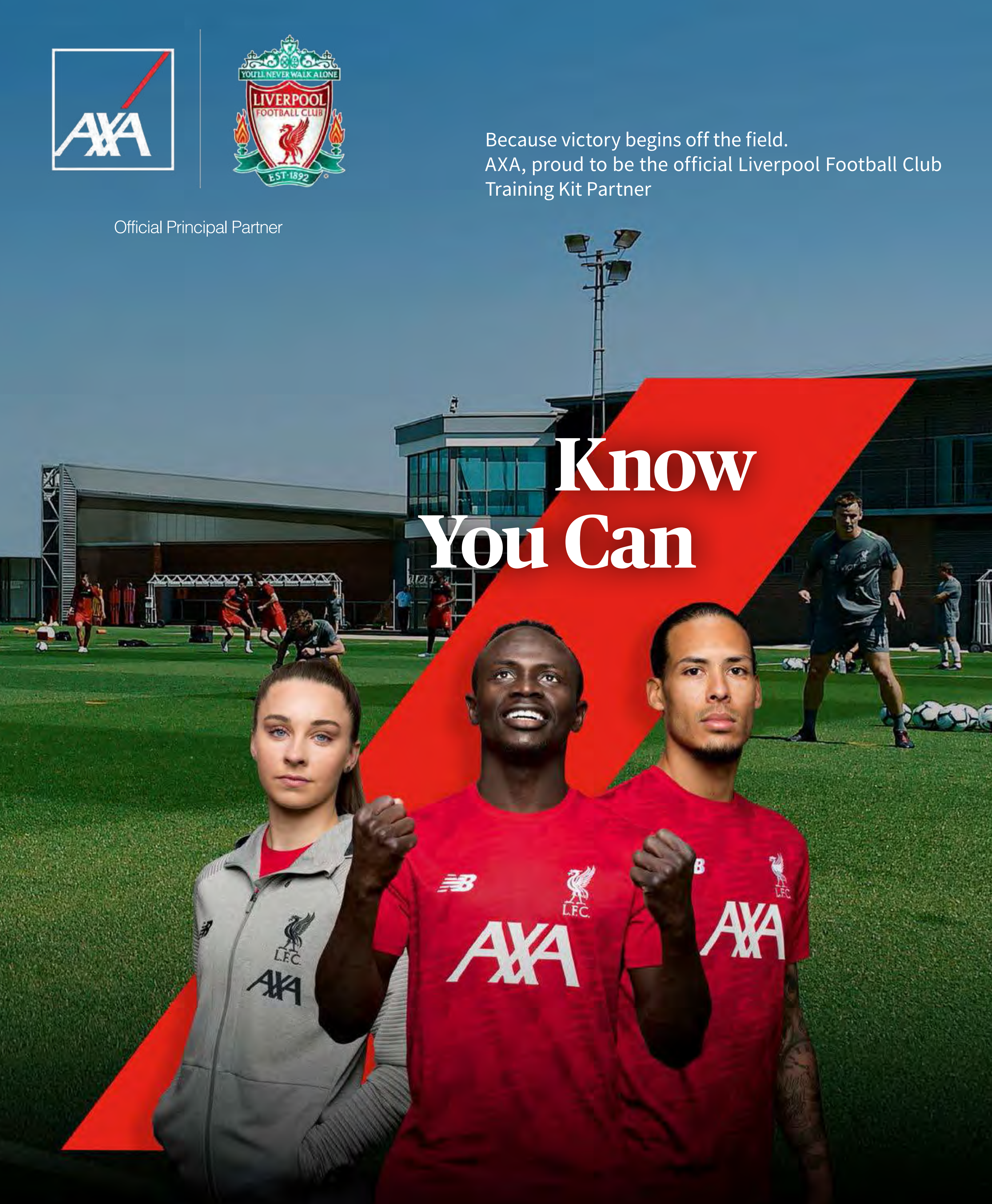


16. SIX, BABY

When your team has just won the Champions League final you want to spend the night celebrating, right? But before Jürgen Klopp could head to Liverpool's post-match party in Madrid he had numerous media duties to attend to inside Estadio Metropolitano. The European Cup-winning boss had to speak to reporters representing different broadcasters from a variety of countries and one of them was Norway's Jan Aage Fjortoft, the former Middlesbrough striker.

What did Jürgen have to say? Not as much as he had to sing: "Let's talk about six, baby, let's talk about you and me, let's talk about all the good things and the bad things that may be, let's talk about...six!"

And there was you thinking you'd never hear a Liverpool manager doing cup-final karaoke to a 1991 chart hit by American hip-hop group Salt-N-Pepa.



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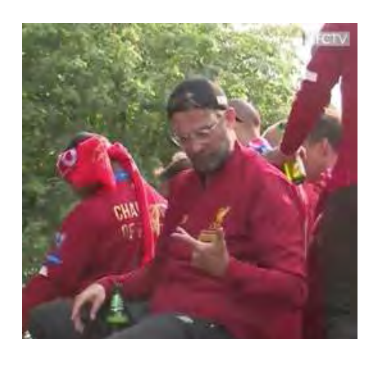
17. HOW MANY?

If you've never used a Jürgen Klopp GIF on Twitter where have you been? There's an array of them to pick from, but since June 2019 one has been retweeted more than any other.

Sat with his leg draped over the edge of the open-top bus travelling through a rammed Liverpool following the Reds' 2019 Champions League success, Klopp was filmed counting to five on his left hand and looking puzzled. A split-second later he looks at his right hand, puts his thumb up and a beaming smile appears on his face.

The man has got six appeal.











18. ADRIAAAAAAAN

Jürgen Klopp is a huge *Rocky* fan. "In my opinion, they should show *Rocky 1, 2, 3* and *4* in schools all across the world," he told The Players Tribune. "It should be like learning the alphabet. If you watch these movies and you don't want to climb to the top of a mountain, then I think something is wrong with you."

Rocky's love interest in the series is girl called Adrian and in the first film he famously calls out her name after going the distance in the ring with champion Apollo Creed. So, when Liverpool beat Chelsea in the 2019 Super Cup final on penalties, thanks to a save from new Reds' goalkeeper Adrian, Klopp couldn't resist 'doing a Rocky' when interviewed on the pitch afterwards by BT Sport's Des Kelly.

"What a story," he said. "Adriaaaaaaan! Like Rocky!" The clip has had over a million hits on YouTube.







19. RECORD-BREAKER

Beating Chelsea 2-1 at Stamford Bridge is a good enough way to celebrate your 150th Premier League game as Liverpool manager, but Jürgen also marked the occasion by breaking a couple of club records too.

Goals from Trent Alexander-Arnold and Bobby Firmino meant he was the first Liverpool boss to win both 15 consecutive league games and seven away league games in a row. Considering what many of his predecessors achieved as Liverpool manager puts those records into perspective, and you just know there are many, many more memorable Klopp moments to come...

ALL TOGETHER NOW

The official first-team squad photograph was released recently, and here's how it's changed over the last four decades



2019/20

Standing room only for Jürgen's class of 19/20, first-team squad and coaching staff, recently staged with Melwood as the backdrop, probably for the last time. Just how good is it to see that voluptuous Champions League trophy in the picture, as well as the UEFA Super Cup?



2009/10

Ten years ago it was on the pitch at Anfield, in front of the Kop. Here it's Rafa and his Reds, with skipper Steven Gerrard and fellow local lad Jamie Carragher either side front-centre. After five seasons which had yielded the Champions League trophy and regular qualification for the tournament, plus an FA Cup, the 2009/10 campaign was a tough one and Benitez left after its denouement.



1999/00

Two decades back now, and Gerard Houllier's first-team squad pose in front of the Kop. This was the Frenchman's first full season in charge as sole boss, and there were notable departures (Paul Ince and Steve McManaman among them) and new faces like Sami Hyypia, Dietmar Hamann, Stephane Henchoz, Vladimir Smicer, Sander Westerveld, Titi Camara, Eric Meijer and Djimi Traore. Success was coming, but it'd take another year.



1989/90

Thirty years ago this was the 19-man first-team squad at the start of season 89/90, snapped in front of the old Main Stand, with manager Kenny Dalglish and coaches Roy Evans and Ronnie Moran, plus the FA Cup won the previous season. An 18th league title was clinched at the end of 89/90 while Kenny received his third Manager of the Year award.

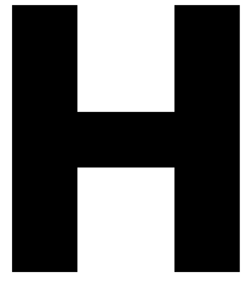


SCOUSE POWER



Having just turned 21, full-back Trent Alexander-Arnold has the world at his feet – but he knows only hard work and dedication will reap more rewards

Words: William Hughes
Anfield photos: Getty Images



e's Alexander-Arnold. The Scouser in our team. And (just) 21 years of age.

Trent celebrated his milestone birthday on 7 October. It usually signifies a coming-of-age moment but the full-back has long since matured in this Liverpool team under manager Jürgen Klopp. Indeed it speaks volumes for the progress he has made since making his debut three years ago that he is now regarded as an integral part of the Liverpool line-up.

At the start of June he became a European champion, becoming the 11th Liverpool-born player to achieve the feat with the Liver Bird upon his chest. It is quite a team and only David Fairclough achieved it at a younger age than Trent (and the 'Bionic Carrot' was a non-playing substitute in the 1977 triumph against Borussia Moenchengladbach in Rome).

Trent was following in the footsteps of his idols, Steven Gerrard and Jamie Carragher, players who were in the Liverpool line-up the day he first went to Anfield, appropriately enough for a Champions League fixture.

"It was the Juventus game in the quarter-final of 2005, the season that we won it," he recalls. "We won 2-1 that day. It was incredible walking up [to Anfield], hearing the songs and seeing the players and all the lights on the pitch and everything.

"I'll never forget the image of what I saw that day and it's something that has motivated me to be able to say that, yes, I am a Champions League player for Liverpool, and there's always that special feeling around the competition.

"Gerrard and Carragher were my idols. I just thought that they had done so much for the club. They were both local lads and they showed me what was possible. They played on the same streets that I did and they grew up the same way, went to schools that I knew and were just normal people from Liverpool who were living the dream."



He admits that winning the Champions League final with Liverpool was his proudest moment in football but says that it has only left him with a hunger to help the club win more silverware in the future.

"Holding that trophy was the best footballing moment I've ever had. There's a picture that I love of me and my brothers with the trophy in Madrid. It shows how much it meant to us all, not just me. They made massive sacrifices for me and it almost felt like they'd won it as well, so it was an unbelievable feeling for us all.

"I feel as though my dreams were prioritised and they always accepted that. If we all had a game at three o'clock on a Saturday then Mum would drive me and they'd have to come to my game. They wouldn't be able to play but they weren't jealous or nasty about it. So it felt like we were all reaping the rewards that night."

Like his team-mates, Alexander-Arnold is quick to acknowledge that last season's success was just that – last season's success. The Reds are keen to draw a line under it and focus firmly on what might be next.

"HOLDING THAT TROPHY WAS THE BEST FOOTBALLING MOMENT I'VE EVER HAD"


14
13
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Premier League

"LOOK AT EVERYONE IN OUR TEAM AND HOW THEY GOT TO WHERE THEY ARE NOW – EVERYONE'S HAD SETBACKS, DISAPPOINTMENTS, BUT IT'S ABOUT BOUNCING BACK"

It is a mentality that has served them well so far this season as they ended September with a perfect record of seven straight wins in the Premier League, a sequence that helped stretch the new club record of consecutive league wins to 16 games following the 1-0 win over Sheffield United at Bramall Lane.

Psychologically the approach also helped them achieve that success in Madrid as they bounced back from the blow of missing out in the 2018 final in Kiev by refusing to dwell on the past, instead setting their sights only on the here and now. Trent says it is a characteristic of the squad that stands them in good stead.

"I think if you look at everyone in our team and how they got to where they are now, it's never been straightforward," he explains. "Everyone's had setbacks, knock-backs, disappointments and failures. But then it's about bouncing back from them and using them as motivation.

"I think the biggest example of that is probably the fact that we lost the Champions League final in 2017/18 and were able to use that as a motivation to go one step further with it the next season. It's something that a lot of teams are not capable of but we showed that we are and we were able to get better from a big disappointment."

He hopes that strategy will serve the Reds well in their quest for the Premier League title as they also bid to go one better than last season when their club-record points tally of 97 wasn't enough to prevent Manchester City claiming the title.

The right-back believes City's incredible standards are helping make his Liverpool side better and vice-versa.

"I think having a team that you know will push you to your absolute limits keeps you on your toes. They were that one point too strong for us last season and this time we know that we have to make up that one point somehow, we need to be that one or two points better if we want to win it.

"To do that we understand that we need to improve, which is the hard part. But we're putting in that work on a daily basis, knowing that other teams as well as Man City are putting in that hard work to try and keep up with us two to get into that title race, wanting to be a part of that.

"We both know that there are teams from all round the league that want to challenge us. It's almost a massive thing to beat one of the teams at the top now so we need to be ready for that."

City's successes under Pep Guardiola may have seen a rethinking of the traditional Liverpool-Manchester football rivalry but Trent knows the Reds will face one of their biggest tests of the season when they make the trip to Old Trafford this month.

"I think in the modern day, people would say that Liverpool v Man City is almost a deciding game in the season. If one of the teams wins that fixture it's a big thing because one team's not getting anything that particular weekend and the other's getting three points. So it's very important in that respect.

"But I think traditionally and historically the Man U-Liverpool game is always massive. It's one of the biggest games of the season and they're







a top side. It's always going to be a big game and a big occasion because both teams want to win it so much."

The same can be said of matches against Chelsea. In that regard the 2-1 victory at Stamford Bridge last month could also be seen as a significant step despite it taking place so early in the season.

"Of course all games in the Premier League are tough ones but that result felt good because it is such a difficult place to go and it was such a difficult game," he reflects.

"They are the type of games where you come off the pitch and you feel really proud that you have won that game because no team gets an easy win at Stamford Bridge, especially with the quality of the Chelsea side that we were playing.

"It was such a hard game. In the last half-hour or so our backs were against the wall almost and so we did well to get the three points. Coming off you breathe a sigh of relief and you think: yes, we've done well there."

It was Trent, of course, who got the Reds up and running that afternoon with a brilliant strike from a well-worked free-kick on the edge of the area. Mo Salah altered the angle by rolling the ball into his path and he lashed home his first goal of the season, generating incredible power to leave Chelsea keeper Kepa Arrizablaga with little chance.

"In the moment we were trying to get a bit of an advantage with the roll [of the ball]. Me, Hendo and Mo were just speaking about what we could do. I think from that range it was a bit too close and to get it over the wall and back down was almost impossible.

"We weren't sure if the wall would jump or not so we couldn't go under it, so we came up with the plan to roll it. By doing that you get the bodies moving and charging at the ball and then it impacts the keeper even more as he can't see everything. Then it's about placement and power.

"I just thought: use the inside of your foot to get a bit more accuracy on it but hit it as hard as you can, because from there if you hit it on target with a lot of power then more than likely you're going to score. So that's what I aimed for, the top corner, and it was a really good goal.

"I think a lot of the lads wanted me to take it so I was happy that I was able to score. I don't score too many goals but you do get a special feeling when you manage it. You feel that you are really helping the side out by winning games and you feel as though you've contributed to getting three points."

Trent and fellow full-back Andy Robertson topped the Premier League assists charts last season and the no66 went into October with only Manchester City playmaker Kevin De Bruyne having created more chances in this season's fledgling campaign. He says that he and Robertson have had conversations about finding the scoresheet more regularly as they bid to take their hugely impressive contributions to the next level.

"I think we see each other's successes as motivation. Seeing the things that he does on the pitch makes me want to do the same. The fans love him with the performances that he puts in and the consistency that he has got which is incredible.

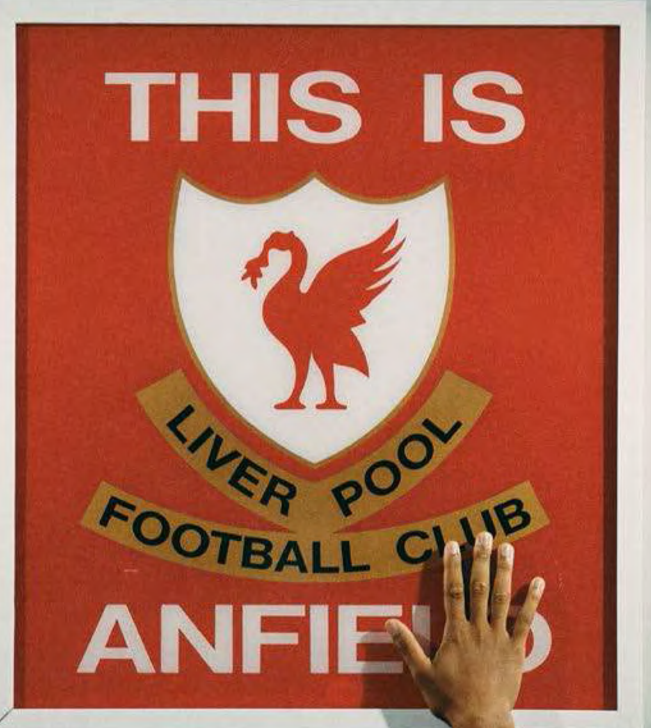
"His work-rate is unbelievable and it motivates everyone in the team. He is someone who will play 100 per cent in every single game and it's a pleasure to play with him in the same team.

"Is there another competition between us for assists? If there is, there's just a pride competition. There's nothing on the competition except that at the end of the season it's always nice to say, ' I got more assists' or for him to say that he got more assists. We were happy to be able to help the team with so many [last season] and hopefully we'll be able to do so again.





"THE LADS WANTED ME TO TAKE THE FREE KICK AT CHELSEA SO I WAS HAPPY THAT I WAS ABLE TO SCORE, I DON'T SCORE TOO MANY BUT YOU GET A SPECIAL FEELING WHEN YOU MANAGE IT"


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"We both know that we don't really score that often and something that we have spoken about is that we want to probably add a few more goals to our game. We're getting up in attacking positions so we want to be able to score goals as well as create them.

"For us, we want to take our games a step further and score more goals. Obviously I was able to do that at Chelsea and Andy will hopefully be able to do that as well."

October sees a testing month as the Reds look to add to their club record winning sequence of Premier League games. That trip to Manchester United in mid-October is sandwiched between Anfield dates with high-flyers Leicester City and Tottenham Hotspur.

"I think the winning sequence is more about confidence," he admits. "It's a confidence-boost to know that over the course of those 16 victories that we've won different types of games. We've had narrow wins and big wins, games where we've been stretched and games where we've won more comfortably, so it shows how versatile we are in winning games.

"Not every game's going to be a clean 3-0 win. You look at Newcastle away in our second-to-last game last season where we had to win 3-2 in the last minutes of the game with a set-piece. That was tough.

"So we're winning different types of games and that's the main thing. Knowing that if we do go a goal behind that we are able to fix that is a big thing – such as in the other game against Newcastle last month. We went a goal behind but were able to come back and win."

Alexander-Arnold has achieved more than most by the age of 21 but now he wants to help establish a dynasty of success whilst doing all he has ever wanted to: play for Liverpool. So how does he reflect on the player he is today in comparison to the one that first lined-up at Anfield in October 2016 against Tottenham Hotspur.

"I've matured. I'd say I've improved in all aspects. I'm still living the dream every day. Being able to say that I'm a Liverpool player makes me proud and no-one can take that away. No matter if I don't play again or if I play many more times, I can always say I was a Liverpool player and that I won trophies with Liverpool.

"I just feel really proud and grateful for the opportunities that I've been given."



LIVERPOOL-BORN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS

(age when first won trophy)

- Tommy Smith (32)
- Ian Callaghan (35)
- Jimmy Case (23)
- Terry McDermott (25)
- Phil Thompson (24)
- David Fairclough (20)
- Sammy Lee (22)
- David Johnson (25)
- Steven Gerrard (24)
- Jamie Carragher (27)
- Trent Alexander-Arnold (20)









GOING



THE MATCH

Through the wind and rain – and occasionally glorious sunshine – welcome to the Anfield matchday ritual. What a time to be an L4 regular...



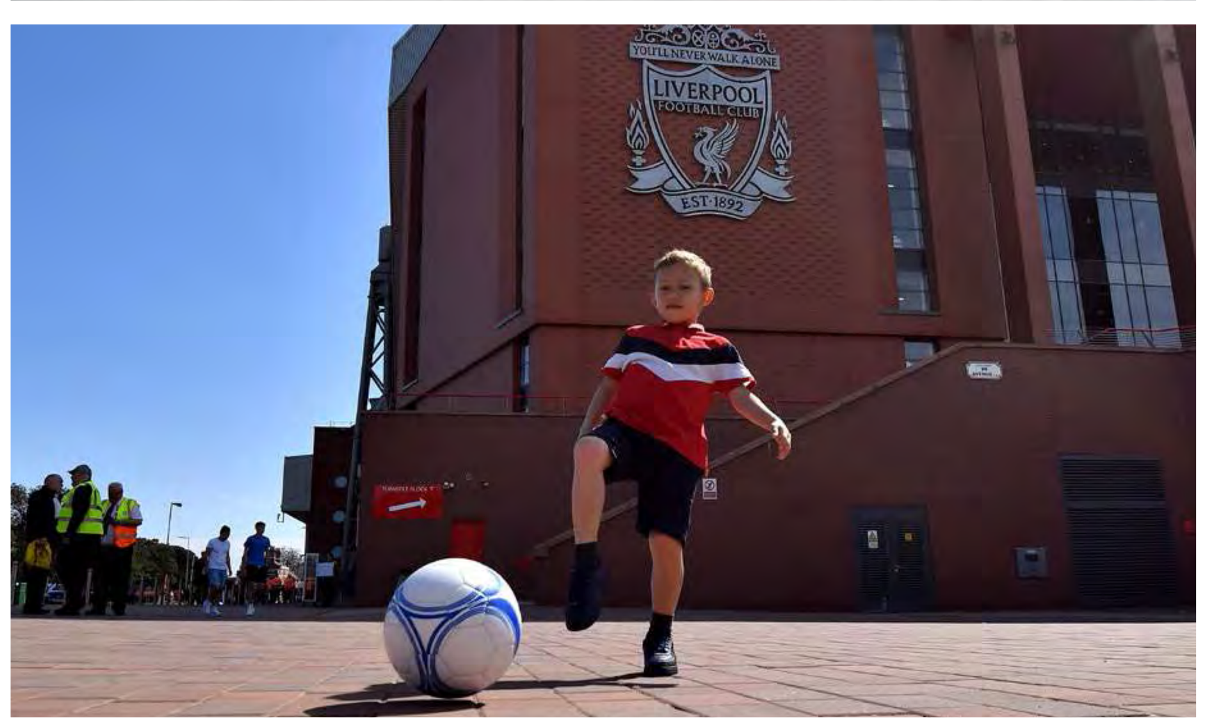

ALEXANDER-ARNOLD
66
"I'M JUST
A NORMAL LAD
FROM LIVERPOOL
WHOSE DREAM
HAS JUST
ME TRUE"
SYBIL ROAD



The LFC team bus glides along Anfield Road to the stadium before kick-off (left) while one couple find a practical use for a giant foam hand (top) and a young fan in a pin badge-adorned jester's hat takes a brief pre-match break.


The Kop
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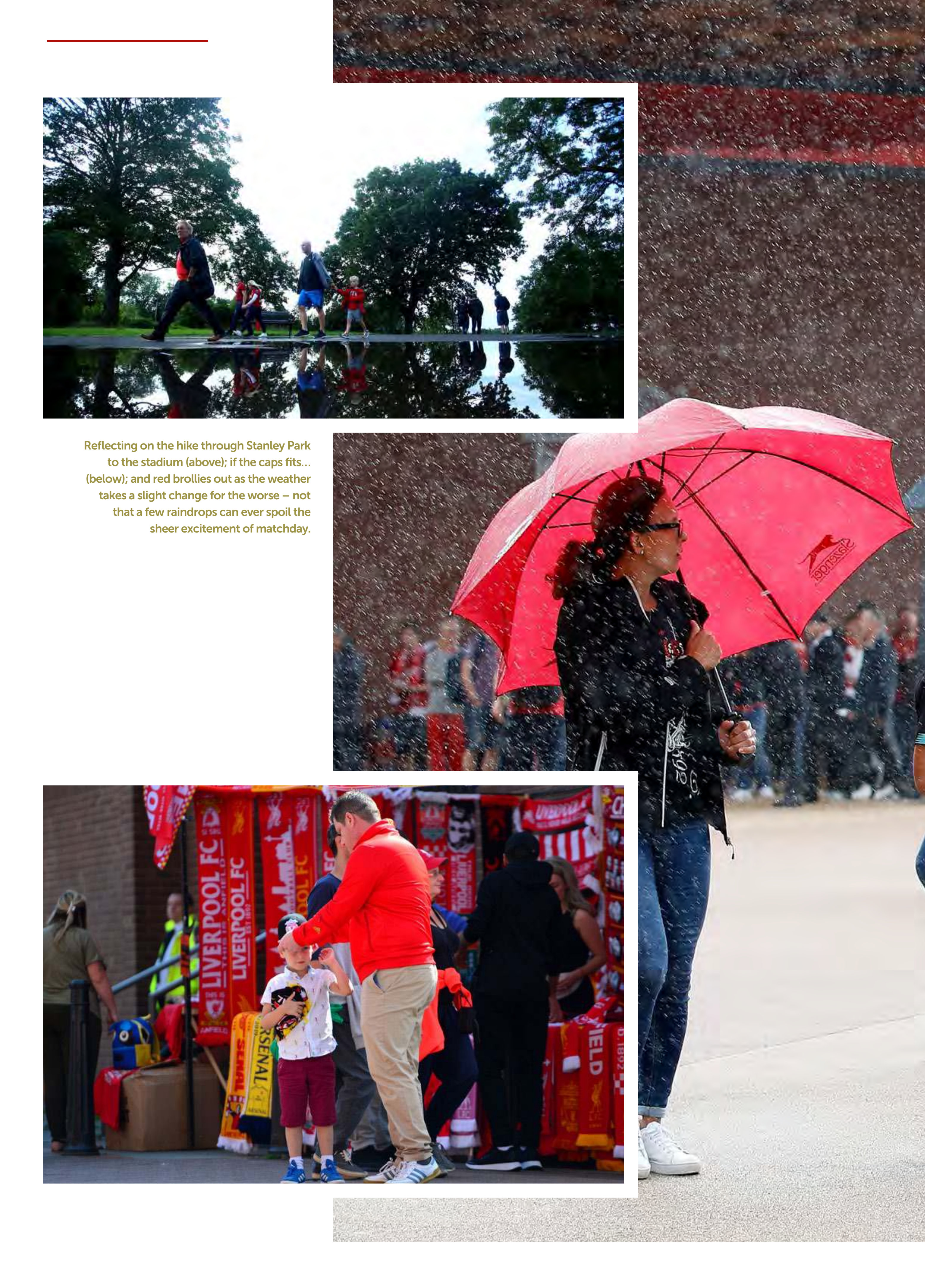

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YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
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Another warm welcome for Jürgen Klopp and his players ahead of the big match, while (left from top) Walton Breck Road gears up for business, fans improvise to shelter from a sudden Anfield downpour, and one youngster shows off his skills ouside the Main Stand – sign him up!



Reflecting on the hike through Stanley Park to the stadium (above); if the caps fits... (below); and red brollies out as the weather takes a slight change for the worse – not that a few raindrops can ever spoil the sheer excitement of matchday.





"WE CAN DO BETTER"

Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson says a desire to win more silverware is fuelling the team's constant quest for improvement. "There are still things we can do a lot better, there are still things we need to improve on and work on which we do every single day," he explains. "But it's also going out and playing with a confidence and the ability that we have. If we do that and combine them both then we've got a good chance of doing really well in every competition. "For us, it's about performing each time we play, no matter what competition it is, and then we'll see where we are at the end of the season."



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Tom Green, Reading

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HARVEY MAKES HISTORY

When summer signing Harvey Elliott lined-up against MK Dons in the Carabao Cup last month, he became the youngest-ever player to start a competitive match for Liverpool, aged 16 years and 174 days old. He was also the second-youngest to play a senior game for the club overall after Jerome Sinclair who was 16 years and six days old when he played against West Brom in the same competition in September 2012. Elliott almost capped his impressive night with a goal, twice bring denied by the woodwork. Jürgen Klopp said afterwards: "Good player. Sixteen-years-old still and this kind of football is good, really good for us. Brilliant boy, takes the situation really well, wants to learn."



Interview: Chris McLoughlin

"I GET GOOSEBUMPS WHEN THE FANS SING YNWA"

Young goalie Caoimhin Kelleher on the Anfield experience, his first-team debut, and learning from the best in the world

→



You made your first-team debut against MK Dons in the Carabao Cup last month – how big a night was that for you?
It was a class experience to make my first-team debut. Obviously it was a dream come true because it is every young boy's dream to play for Liverpool. It was a dream, to be honest.

I was 16 when I first came here so I've been here a long time now, to be fair. I've worked my way up from the Academy so it's been a long time coming, but it was class to make my debut.

When did you find out you were playing and how did you feel?
I found out I was playing on the Sunday before, the day of the Chelsea game. They just said 'Get ready for Wednesday' so I knew I was playing. It was good to get time to prepare, but also time was going slowly after that when I just wanted to get out there and play.

I'm not one to get very nervous but obviously there were a few nerves there with it being my first appearance.

You're only the third goalkeeper aged 20 or under keep goal for Liverpool, after Chris Kirkland and Scott Carson, since the 1970s – does that show how much faith the manager has in you?
Yeah, of course, because for goalkeepers the more experience you have the better it is. When you're younger you don't really play that much, but getting that opportunity in the Carabao Cup was good as it shows the manager has got faith in me and trusts me.

I think the more experience a goalkeeper has, the more a manager will trust you, so if I can build up games like this at a young age the better it will be for me.

Was it helpful to have three experienced defenders in Dejan Lovren, Joe Gomez and James Milner playing ahead of you on your debut?
It was important and the senior players talked to me before the game. They just told me to play my normal game and throughout the game the they were talking to me, giving me confidence to play my own game.

That really helped me, to be honest, and we do 11 v 11 games every week in training so it wasn't difficult to play behind them. I got used to playing with them in front of me quite quickly.

There was an incident in first half when it was suggested on TV that you handled the ball outside of the penalty area – did you?
I think I was in, obviously! I haven't seen it again, to be fair, but I think I was in and the ref did too.

You made two cracking saves in the second half and kept a clean-sheet, which must have been good for your confidence...
It was nice to make those saves in those moments, just to be there for the team. I was just doing my job when called upon, so it was good to do that and be in the right position to make those saves. It was nice to keep a clean-sheet but it was a bonus, really.

I wasn't going into the game thinking: I have to keep a clean-sheet. I just went into it thinking: I have to do my job. When the final whistle went and I knew I had a clean sheet it was a nice moment.

The manager called you "a wonderful goalkeeper" in his post-match TV interview – good to hear?
It's obviously nice to hear when the manager says anything like that about you, but I just want to keep going to be honest. I want to concentrate on doing my job every day and improving.





What did he say to you afterwards?
He just said ‘Well done’ and not much else!

I believe some of your family came over from Ireland and were in the away end – did you spot them during the game, and what did they say to you afterwards?
Yeah a few of family were in the away end with the Liverpool fans. My mum, my sister, my brother and my girlfriend all came over to watch the game and support me, which was really nice.

I didn’t see them in the stand when I was on the pitch, but I saw them all after the game and we were all quite speechless, to be honest. It wasn’t awkward, it was just a weird one because I’d just made my Liverpool debut and didn’t know what to say really!

Liverpool are drawn to play Arsenal at home in the Carabao Cup fourth round. If selected again, what will it mean to you to make your Anfield debut?
Of course it would be nice to play on Anfield for the first time for the senior team. I’ve been on the bench at Anfield and I get goosebumps when the fans sing *You’ll Never Walk Alone* before the game, it’s an amazing atmosphere there. So it would be a lovely moment, but I’m not thinking about that. I’m just taking it as it comes.

I’m not expecting anything, I’m just going to train as best I can and if I’m selected I’ll be ready.





I LOOK AT WHAT THE OTHER GOALKEEPERS DO IN TRAINING AND HOW THEY PREPARE FOR GAMES OUTSIDE THE PITCH – STUFF YOU PICK UP THROUGH EXPERIENCE





You were competing with Kamil Grabara to be third-choice last season but he's now out on loan while you've remained here. Do you feel like you're out-and-out third choice goalkeeper now?
At the moment I'm third-choice, but I'm just taking every day as it comes. If I get more opportunities to play that's great, but if I get the opportunity to go out on loan that's one I might take too.

I spoke to the coaching staff about going on loan in the summer, but they wanted me to stay here to get experience in training with the first-team. That was the plan and I can't complain because I've made my first-team debut. Now I just need to keep going.

You've worked with two new goalkeepers in Adrian and Andy Lonergan this season. What are they like to train with and as people?
They've been really good – top, to be fair. Obviously as a young goalkeeper learning from them is great, but as people they have been really supportive of me. Andy was the sub goalie for the game against MK Dons and really helped me that night with his experience, giving me advice and telling me to enjoy it.

Adrian texted me a couple of days before the game saying 'Good luck' and texted me afterwards saying 'Congratulations'.

They are both really nice guys and are passing all their experience on, but I also have to look at how well Adrian has done since coming in. Considering he had very little time to get used to things here he has done very, very well. He'd only been here for a few days when he had to come on and play against Norwich, which is very difficult when you've hardly trained with the team, so he's been really good here.

When you talk about them, and of course Alisson, passing their experience on, what aspects of your game are you trying to improve by working with them?
Everything, really. I just try to look at everything they do in training, what they do every day, but also how they prepare for games outside the pitch. Travelling with the first-team squad is different in that you can see the top players and what they are doing to prepare, it's stuff like that you pick up through experience.

Alisson is the best goalkeeper in the world for a reason – he's unbelievable – so for me to get the opportunity to train with him every day is something I love. It really helps me to look at him and improves my game as well.

I've got to ask you about being on the bench for the Champions League final and UEFA Super Cup in Madrid and Istanbul – what were those nights like?
Obviously it was a very nice experience to be in the squad and sit on the bench for big nights like that.

Not many people get to experience sitting on the bench for a Champions League final! Running onto the pitch and celebrating at the end of those games, both the Champions League and the Super Cup, was great and feeling a part of it comes from the manager. He makes us all feel important.

The whole squad is quite close and it shows on nights like that. To get that experience at such a young age was good and the big thing to come out of it for me is that I want to be part of more big nights like that, hopefully playing in them.

That's a big motivation for me.

Finally, now that you've made your Liverpool debut have you set yourself any personal targets for the rest of the season?
I'm just trying to take every game as it comes and perform well if another opportunity comes, perhaps in the next Carabao Cup game. It was class seeing the away end full of Liverpool fans when I made my debut and it's a big competition for the young players.

We know we'll get chances in that competition and whenever I get another opportunity with the first team, I'll be ready.


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DOUBLE DELIGHT!



Hot prospects **Paul Glatzel** and **Jake Cain** delighted to commit themselves to Liverpool FC and continue their development

Young Reds Paul Glatzel and Jake Cain signed new contracts with Liverpool FC last month. The 18-year-olds put pen to paper on the deals at Melwood to commit their futures to the Reds.

Glatzel is continuing his rehabilitation from a long-term knee issue sustained during the pre-season friendly at Tranmere Rovers in July.

Upon agreeing the new terms, the forward told the club's website: "It's a great feeling obviously. I was disappointed to get my injury at the start of the season, but it shows that the club has got faith in me. Now I can just focus on my rehab and get back on the pitch.

"I've been at the club for so long and I just want to keep going and see where it takes me. Hopefully I can crack on now and keep going. The contract makes it easier.

"Mentally, it's good to be able to focus on the rehab and know that there's people that have faith in me and they know I'll come back from my injury stronger and I'll be ready when I'm back on the pitch."

After scoring 28 goals for the club's Under-18s last season, Paul was involved with Jürgen Klopp's first-team squad at Melwood this summer prior to his injury. His form last season helped Liverpool clinch the FA Youth Cup, with the striker claiming the title of the tournament's top scorer with eight goals.





Meanwhile, midfielder Cain achieved a long-term goal when he signed his first professional deal with the Reds.

Another FA Youth Cup winner last season, Jake has been with Liverpool since the age of nine.

"It's a dream-come-true really," he said "It has been one of my aspirations all my life and it has finally happened. I'm buzzing with that and all my family are made up as well.

"I was at the Academy and [the director] Alex Inglethorpe called me into his room and offered it to me. I was over the moon to get it signed.

"I know you've got to keep your head down and keep working – and prove what else you can do. It's not like you can ease off and relax, you've got to kick on and keep pushing.

I KNOW YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN AND KEEP WORKING – AND PROVE WHAT ELSE YOU CAN DO. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN EASE OFF AND RELAX, YOU'VE GOT TO KICK ON AND KEEP PUSHING



CUP TIES CONFIRMED

Liverpool Under-23s have confirmed the dates for the group-stage games in this season's Premier League Cup.

Neil Critchley's side have been drawn with Sunderland, Wigan Athletic and Huddersfield Town in Group F. The young Reds will take on each of their three opponents home and away, with the top two progressing to the last 16.

- Sunday 6 October: Wigan Athletic (H) 3pm, Kirkby Academy.
- Sunday 10 November: Sunderland (A) 12 noon, Eppleton Collieray, Hetton-le-Hole.
- Monday 2 December: Huddersfield Town (A) 7pm, John Smith's Stadium.
- Friday 17 January: Wigan Athletic (A) 7pm, DW Stadium.
- Sunday 9 February: Sunderland (H) 1pm, Kirkby Academy.
- Sunday 23 February: Huddersfield Town (H) 2pm, Kirkby Academy.



STUFF OF LEGE

October's game between teams of legends from Liverpool and Rangers is the latest in a sequence of star-turns from ex-Reds


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Saturday 12 October sees a team of former Reds stars facing their Rangers counterparts at Ibrox in Glasgow, with Liverpool captained by Steven Gerrard, the current Gers manager, and featuring greats like Jamie Carragher, Luis Garcia and Patrik Berger, and fans having the opportunity on the day to donate to both the Rangers Charity Foundation and LFC Foundation.

It's not the first outing for LFC Legends this year. In April two stellar teams took to the pitch at Dublin's Aviva Stadium in support of the Sean Cox Rehabilitation Trust, the Reds XI beating their Republic of Ireland counterparts 2-1 on an entertaining afternoon.

The previous month saw Anfield play host to Liverpool Legends v Milan Glorie, with Gerrard scoring a late winner in a 3-2 victory.

In truth that day it was an unorthodox Liverpool starting XI selected by manager Sir Kenny Dalglish, with debutant Glen Johnson and 64-year-old Alan Kennedy as marauding wing-backs, and Bjorn Tore Kvarme – goalscoring hero the previous year against Bayern Munich – partnering Gerrard in midfield!







Kennedy certainly put his participation in LFC Foundation's community-focused walking-football sessions to good use with a classy eight-minute run-out before being replaced by another Legends debutant Djimi Traore.

The rest of the side saw Jamie Carragher, Sami Hyypia and Daniel Agger impress in defence in front of Jerzy Dudek in goal, with the attacking trident of Dirk Kuyt, Luis Garcia and Robbie Fowler reunited after their brief time playing together for the Reds in 2006.

It was a first glimpse of many of AC Milan's legendary stars for spectators too, with Kaka and Andrea Pirlo in particular showing some delightful touches in their midfield exchanges.

But it was Fowler who gave Liverpool the lead with a sublime looping volley over Dida at the Anfield Road end from Johnson's pinpoint cross, then after the interval Djibril Cisse was played through by fellow substitute Paddy Berger and stroked the ball past Milan's sub keeper Christian Abbiati at the Kop end.

An unerring free-kick from a world-class playmaker, Milan's Pirlo, left Sander Westerveld rooted to the spot, before team-mate Giuseppe Pancaro curled in from the edge of the area – two-two!

This called for Stevie to come the rescue, exchanging passes with Cisse before unleashing a trademark strike into the bottom corner of the net.

Once again, though, the real winners were those in need who benefited from another full-house contributing to the work of LFC Foundation.

"Thanks to everyone for coming out and supporting all the boys," said the skipper. "As soon as you get the invite you can't wait for the day. The lads give up their free time – they could be with their families elsewhere but they want to come here for a good cause and to entertain the supporters. Well done to all the lads."

The previous year, 2018, another full house at Anfield was thoroughly entertained as Liverpool Legends drew 5-5 with Bayern Munich. Midfield maestro Xabi Alonso switched sides halfway through the 90 minutes, later reflecting on "a great crowd and fantastic atmosphere – like it always is here."

“IT’S A FAMILY THING, YOU’RE BROUGHT UP TO FOLLOW LIVERPOOL„

Tom Fagan, Dublin



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The Reds scorers that day were Kuyt, Owen, Fowler with two, and finally Norwegian defender Kvarme in the final minutes with a spectacular Kop-end volley!

The occasion raised £1 million, with 10 per cent donated to Bayern Munich's own charity and the remaining 90 per cent used to support LFC Foundation programmes and partnerships across the Liverpool City Region.

In 2017 it was Liverpool Legends 4 Real Madrid Leyendas 3 in front of another 50,000-plus crowd. On the scoresheet for the hosts: Owen, Aldridge, Fowler and Gerrard.

This was the 'return leg' of the charity match which had taken place in 2015 at the Bernabeu in Madrid, and again it was a rare opportunity for fans of all ages to witness some of the world's greatest former players appear together at an equally legendary venue.







For the visitors, it was an unforgettable experience too. Real Madrid's Clarence Seedorf said: "I absolutely enjoyed it from the first to the last minute. It's a great cause and participating in these kind of games is an honour. I'm not the first and I won't be the last to say that Anfield is absolutely fantastic"

Reds ex-players John Arne Riise summed the occasion up from a playing point-of-view: "Even if I had something scheduled I would cancel it to come here.

"It's my club, my home. It was amazing to come back, with a full stadium.

"A dream-come-true!"



CARNAGE!

All Merseyside derbies tend to be full-blooded affairs, but one particularly feisty game four decades ago takes some beating, as Terry McDermott recalled...

Forty years ago this month one of the most incident-packed, unusual Merseyside derbies took place at Anfield. It finished 2-2 but the scoreline doesn't reflect everything that occurred on 20 October 1979.

The build-up to the game had seen a lot of talk about the cageyness of all-Merseyside clashes with six of the previous 11 league meetings finishing 0-0 and three of the other four ending in 1-0 wins. Bob Paisley wanted his side, who'd won the league title in 1979, to play their normal game.

"These games get no easier," he said. "You can never forecast how they'll go – they're a law unto themselves. We will just go out there and hope we can play to our potential. The closer we can get to playing our normal game, the better it is."

Paisley hadn't been able to work with most of his players during the week as they were away on international duty, but he did have Terry McDermott back from an ankle injury.

Everton's new £650,000 signing John Gidman was ruled out of making his Blues debut through injury, and so was the referee. John Hunting, of Leicester, was due to take charge of the game only to injure himself playing squash. David Richardson, of Great Harwood, stepped in as his replacement and would be in for a busy afternoon.

Phil Thompson led the Reds out for the first time as Liverpool captain in a derby and waved a clenched fist towards the Kop as he emerged from the Anfield tunnel. Blues captain Mick Lyons responded in similar fashion as he led his team down to the Anfield Road end. It took eight minutes for the deadlock to be broken in comical circumstances.

Alan Kennedy's cross was headed away by Mark Higgins to Lyons, who tried to pass the ball back to Blues keeper George Wood, but only succeeded in lobbing him from 25 yards. One-nil Liverpool.

"Mickey Lyons is magic, Mickey Lyons is magic," chanted the Kop before adapting their Kenny Dalglish song to sing, "I'd walk a million miles for one of your goals, oh Mickey!" at the Everton captain. The crowd of 52,201, incidentally, was the first Anfield lock-out of the season.

Liverpool were on top but Everton equalised against the run of play in the 19th minute when both Ray Clemence and Thompson thought the other was going to deal with a cross and Brian Kidd nipped in to level.



These games get no easier, you can never forecast how they'll go – they're a law unto themselves

Graeme Souness was booked for a foul on Andy King and after the break the Reds had the Blues penned in at the Kop end. "Three shots by Liverpool players were blocked by a nine-man Everton defence who were at full stretch to hold the rampant Reds," reported the *Football Echo*.

That pressure paid off in the 54th minute when Souness and Kenny Dalglish combined to find Ray Kennedy, who lashed a shot home that Wood got a hand to but couldn't keep out.

Wood then denied McDermott and Alan Kennedy with a couple of outstanding saves before Everton again scored against the run of play, King firing beyond Clemence in the 67th minute.

Three minutes later it all went off. Everton defender Garry Stanley put a robust challenge in on Reds striker David Johnson about ten yards outside the Blues box and, with tensions running high, it sparked a mass brawl.

Arms were swung, punches were thrown and the *Echo*'s Michael Charters described it as "the biggest on-field brawl since the Eton Wall Game." It ended with referee Richardson producing the first red cards brandished in a Merseyside derby for 83 years, as McDermott recalled in his 2017 autobiography

Football Echo

LARE-UP AT DERBY: TWO SENT OFF

Liverpool 2, Everton 2

LINE-UP

MORE BIG MATCH ACTION PICTURES – BACK PAGE

Charles Lambert's view

A HAPPY ENDING FOR MIKE

MONDAY'S VERDICT

... on an incredible derby that had everything!

A LESSON IN FINISHING

... as Everton make champs pay for those misses

MICHAEL CHARTERS REPORTS

MATCH FACTS

Daily Post, Monday October 22, 1979 15

in Merseyside's most exciting derby for years

Bob disappointed –but Gordon praises character

WHAT they said about the derby: Liverpool manager Bob Paisley: "Everton must be the luckiest team to take a point here this season. They did not put two passes together all afternoon.

"We have no excuses. We should have been able to give them those two bad goals and still won."

Everton manager Gordon Lee "We showed tremendous character. A lot of sides who had given away a goal like the one Mike Lyons did would have been beaten. Probably an own goal like that could only happen in a local derby. But Mike did not let his head drop, he came battling back.

"This will do us a lot of good. You've got to start believing you can go to places like Anfield and do well.

"I believe we can do better when John Gidman is in the side."

Gidman, who spent his first Saturday as an Everton player watching from the Anfield dugout: "I have never been so excited. I was so excited I did not even notice the streaker."

Liverpool skipper Phil Thompson: "We played really well and shouldn't have given them a cat in hell's chance. What it boils down to is that we gave them two daft goals."

Referee Richardson shows the red card to dejected Terry McDermott.

A cheeky fan who scored at Anfield

MATCH-DAY STREAKER IS BLUES' BIGGEST DRAW

By Carolyn Taylor

Terry Mac – Living For The Moment.

"It's not exactly something I'm proud of, but I made a bit of Anfield history by becoming the first Liverpool player to be sent off in a Merseyside derby in the 20th century. My big mate Garry Stanley joined me by replicating that fact with Everton.

"There was a big melee, a right free-for-all after Garry had gone through David Johnson. The usual suspects were soon on the scene, Jimmy Case, Graeme Souness for us. Everyone quickly dived in, punching and pushing.

"I joined in and ended up hitting Garry in the mouth – I still think I've got the indentation of one of his teeth on my knuckle. It was ridiculous because the pair of us must have been the softest players on the pitch when it comes to being physical, but we were both dismissed.

"One thing it didn't do was alter our friendship because that night we met up for a drink in Liverpool. In fact, when we were going down the tunnel after being sent off, we were arranging where to hook up later for a good night-out. We ended up having a few beers.

"It was a shock to read the newspapers the next day and learn that no-one else had been sent off that century in a derby. That was incredible when you think of all the hard knocks who have

been in combat down the years then two wusses like myself and Garry have to make the walk of shame down the tunnel.

"Even on that day, you had the likes of Mick Lyons and Souey weighing in. Probably the referee was too frightened to send them off.

"Bob Paisley didn't say a word afterwards to me because he knew the referee could have sent 10 players off following that bust up. We were the scapegoats. The game ended 2-2 and I think there was even a female streaker on the pitch that day!"

There was indeed a streaker and the story of that incident is somewhat bizarre. A 24-year-old female from Norris Green ran onto the Anfield pitch wearing just a jumper and an Everton scarf. She was arrested but went missing the following day, prompting her mother to reveal in the *Echo* that her daughter wasn't a football fan but had met with religious sect the Moonies two days prior to the derby.

"I think she was under a very strong influence, otherwise she wouldn't have stripped off," she said. "I think she must have fallen into the hands of a religious freak."

A couple of days later the Anfield streaker had to be rescued from the Mersey and taken to hospital after jumping into the water from the Woodside landing-stage in Birkenhead.

Back on the pitch, Paisley's Liverpool went on to retain the league title, finishing two points ahead of Manchester United to become champions of England for a tenth time, while Everton ended the season one place above the relegation zone in 19th.

As for McDermott, he served a one-match ban – a 4-0 win against Manchester City – and made such an impact when he returned that at the end of season 1979/80 he was named as PFA player of the year and Football Writers' footballer of the year for 1980, scoring 16 goals from midfield in 53 games.

That red card was the only dismissal of his Liverpool career but one of the most infamous Anfield has ever seen.

Everyone dived in, punching and pushing, but the softest players on the pitch, me and Garry Stanley, ended up bring dismissed – it didn't affect our friendship



HOW THEY LINE UP

LIVERPOOL		EVERTON
(Red Shirts)	REFEREE	(Blue Shirts)
1 Ray CLEMENCE	Mr. D. Richardson (Great Harwood)	1 George WOOD
2 Phil NEAL		2 Billy WRIGHT
3 Alan KENNEDY	LINESMEN	3 John BAILEY
4 Phil THOMPSON (Capt.)	Mr. D. B. Scrimshaw (Red Flag)	4 Mick LYONS (Capt.)
5 Ray KENNEDY	Mr. F. Stringfellow (Orange Flag)	5 Mark HIGGINS
6 Alan HANSEN		6 Trevor ROSS
7 Kenny DALGLISH		7 Asa HARTFORD
8 Jimmy CASE		8 Garry STANLEY
9 David JOHNSON		9 Bob LATCHFORD
10 Terry McDERMOTT		10 Brian KIDD
11 Graeme SOUNESS		11 Andy KING
Substitute:		Substitute:



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TIDY EFFORT FROM HOEVER

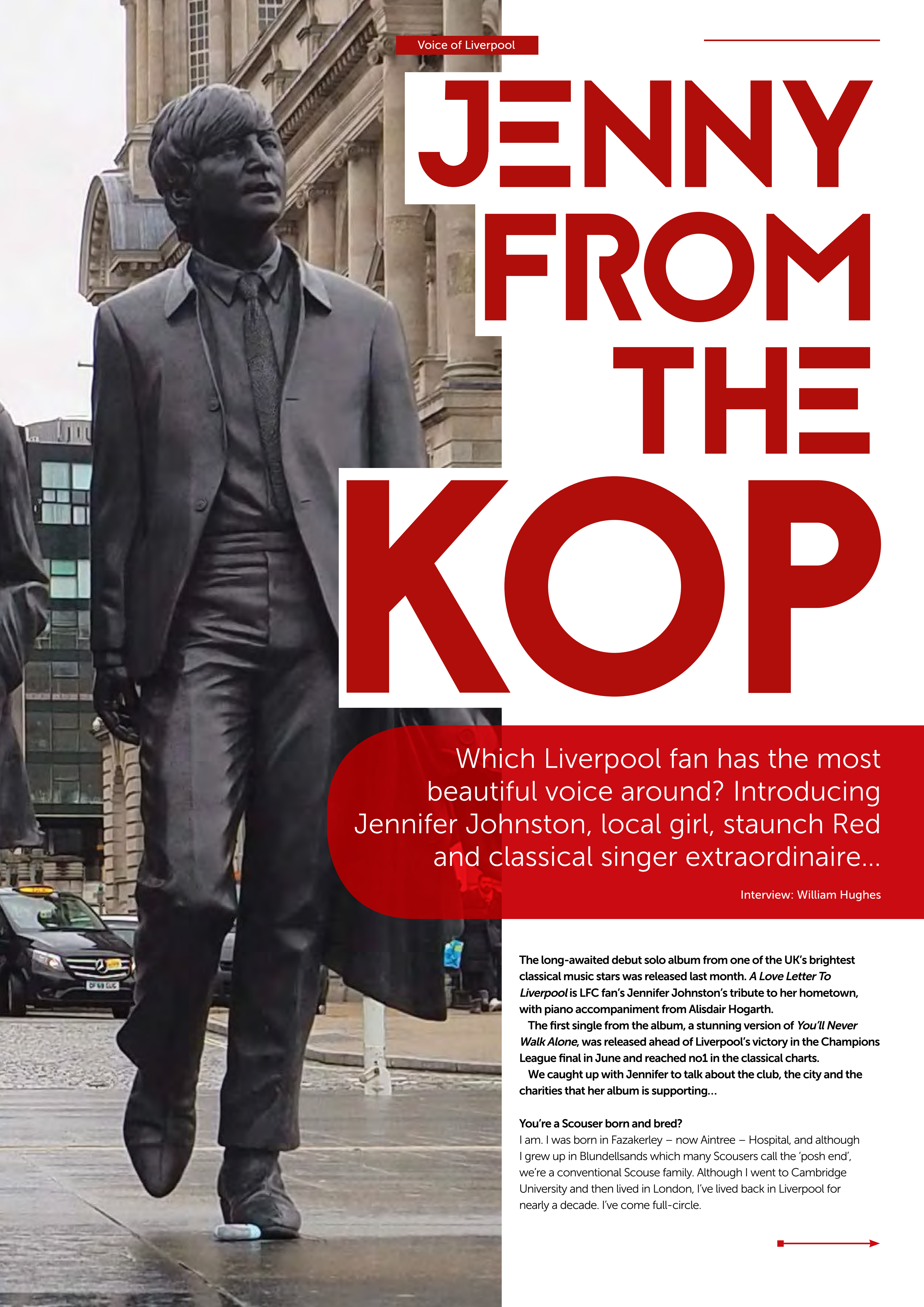
Young Dutchman Ki-Jana Hoever became the fourth youngest scorer for the Reds in the League Cup when he headed in the second goal of the game at MK Dons, aged 17 years and 250 days. The defender, who also played his part in helping the team keep a clean-sheet, was slightly older than Ben Woodburn, Michael Owen and Jordan Rossiter. "I have never scored before for Liverpool in the Under-18s or the Under-23s so it was my first one for Liverpool and I'm really happy," he said. "I'll definitely always remember it. Millie gave the cross and I was expecting the ball, hoping it to come my way. It did, and I just headed it in."



MANE'S MAIN GOALS

Sadio Mane went into October on the brink of two Premier League milestones for the Reds. The Senegalese star ended September on 99 league appearances and 49 goals for Liverpool. However, he told the official matchday programme that he is not motivated by individual records: "I am not someone who is thinking about this kind of thing. The more important things for me is that I score goals for the team and help them win games. I have had a good start to the season with scoring goals but my aim is to work harder to get better, score more goals and provide more assists for my team-mates."





JENNY FROM THE KOP

Which Liverpool fan has the most beautiful voice around? Introducing Jennifer Johnston, local girl, staunch Red and classical singer extraordinaire...

Interview: William Hughes

The long-awaited debut solo album from one of the UK's brightest classical music stars was released last month. *A Love Letter To Liverpool* is LFC fan's Jennifer Johnston's tribute to her hometown, with piano accompaniment from Alisdair Hogarth.

The first single from the album, a stunning version of *You'll Never Walk Alone*, was released ahead of Liverpool's victory in the Champions League final in June and reached no1 in the classical charts.

We caught up with Jennifer to talk about the club, the city and the charities that her album is supporting...

You're a Scouser born and bred?

I am. I was born in Fazakerley – now Aintree – Hospital, and although I grew up in Blundellsands which many Scousers call the 'posh end', we're a conventional Scouse family. Although I went to Cambridge University and then lived in London, I've lived back in Liverpool for nearly a decade. I've come full-circle.

Your father Tim is a keen Liverpool supporter too…
My dad is a huge fan – as is his identical twin – Liverpool fans come in pairs in our family! But like many Scouse families not everybody is an LFC fan and there are a few Evertonians around too, but everything's very good-natured. When Liverpool won the Champions League there weren't any arguments in the family – everyone was just happy that a Scouse team won a trophy!

He's a loyal fan and a season-ticket holder in the new Main Stand and goes to as many matches as he can. I remember him and my mum going down to Wembley for an FA Cup final against Everton in the 80s. Lots of dads have lots of hobbies but my dad just has Liverpool Football Club. He's never happier than when he's watching the Reds play.

Ahead of the Champions League final you released your version of *You'll Never Walk Alone* and also performed it wearing a red gown at the Liverpool Philharmonic in December 2018…
For most mezzo-sopranos, *You'll Never Walk Alone* is a bit like *Nessun Dorma* for a tenor. Even though it's a musical-theatre song, we don't have a great deal of show-stopping music written for us, so we'll very often programme *YNWA* in at gala concerts with an orchestra.

Obviously for someone not from Liverpool it doesn't have quite the same meaning but for me it's a double-whammy! It's such a powerful song in itself but added to the Liverpool context, it was a no-brainer when it came to programming the Christmas concerts.

I'm proud to have it on my album, as it has transcended football and musical theatre and become the city's anthem. It has universal appeal that never wanes, no matter how many times people hear it, which I think is testament to how beautifully-written it is.

You're now artist-in-residence at the Philharmonic too…
What a great honour and a huge opportunity. It would be easy to just come and sing concerts with the orchestra but I really want to celebrate the fact that I'm from Liverpool – it's my home and hopefully I can feed back into the system that has created me. It's actually no different to the youth players at this club – some of them will end up in the first team and then they give back into the system. The album is also conceived not just to celebrate the city itself but also its people.

You've selected all the tracks on A Love letter To Liverpool too…
Liverpool is my home so I chose things that have a personal significance to me – it would've been impossible to be objective! My parents' house sits right on the seafront overlooking Crosby beach where Antony Gormley's Iron Men are. The sea and its impact on our daily lives was significant compared to if I'd grown up in, say, Anfield.

The first half of the album is about the sea, migration, trade, shipping… all of that is important to the city and also to my own family. My great-great-grandfather was the head-sailmaker for the White Star Line and my great-grandfather was a senior engineer who made ship's compasses.



There's even something for Evertonians as *Johnny Todd* appears on the album!
It's a folk song and of course a well-known track in itself. My version is not recognisable in the sense of *Z-Cars*, though, and some Everton fans may say it doesn't sound like they were expecting. It's been rearranged by one of the young composers into his own version.

It must have been exciting to work so closely with the Liverpool Philharmonic again…
I joined the Philharmonic Choir when I was 15 and my association with the Phil is therefore very long-standing.

When I joined there wasn't a youth-choir set up so I was plunged straight into a world where I was being given exposure close-up to the most famous singers and conductors of our day and I was surrounded by people who had a true love of classical music. As a formative experience it was critical, so I owe them a huge debt. I don't know that I would have gone on to sing without that kind of experience. I sang my first professional solo with the Phil orchestra when I was 15.

Were you nervous when you made your debut?
I think at that age, you just get on with it and don't over-analyse. Of course, I don't face what the Liverpool team faces in terms of the noise. If you're comparing situations, I do my job against the sound of an orchestra, who will play what they're supposed to play, but their volume-levels are controlled by the conductor. And only when we finish do people applaud and make noise.

Having been to matches at Anfield, I don't know how the players cope in terms of the giant wave of sound that hits them. They can't wear earplugs because they need to be able to communicate with each other, so I pity their eardrums!

When people are so invested in football and in their team, it's nice for the players to feel that wave of support. I don't know if they'd be able to do their job without it. Like any performance-based job, adrenaline is critical and if they were playing in an empty stadium it wouldn't be the same for them at all. I'm sure the support and affection from the fans carries them along and hopefully spurs them on to greater things.

I find performing somewhere small like the Music Room at the Phil, where you can see the faces up-close of each member of the audience, more nerve-wracking than I do playing or singing to an entire stadium.

The album sales will help support children in the city…
All proceeds from the album are for the children of Liverpool via Alder Hey Children's Charity and the Liverpool Philharmonic's Youth Company.

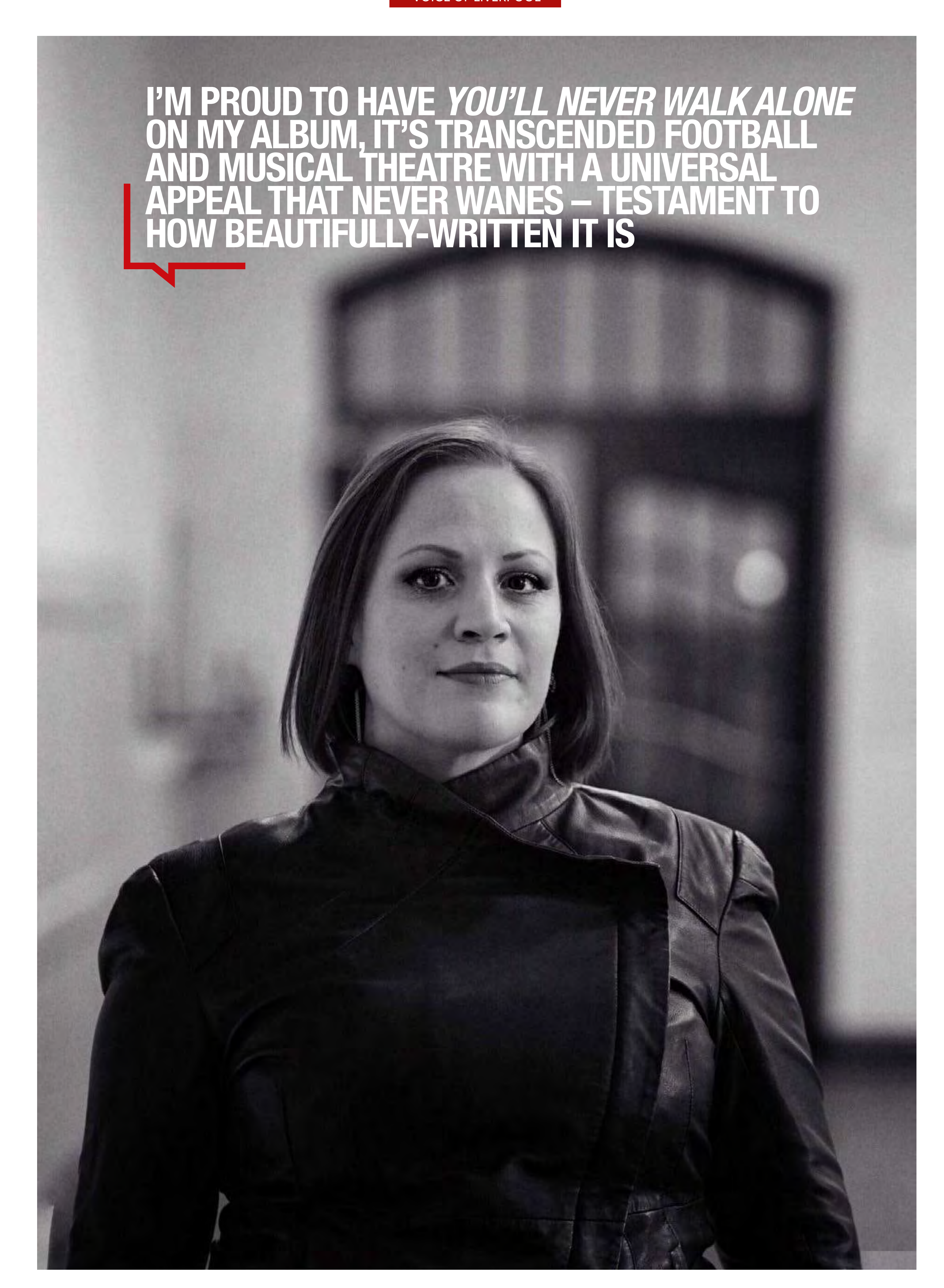
Alder Hey, our world-class children's hospital, treats over 900 children every day of the year, and also provides huge support for their families too. Music is used as therapy in the hospital, particularly in the treatment of mental health conditions. And the Liverpool Phil Youth Company supports young musicians from across Merseyside and has had to provide a lot of the musical education that, in the past, children would have received in schools but which no longer exists.

We're massively blessed to have Alder Hey and the Phil, and then when you add in the two football clubs and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, these five organisations are key to the life and success of our city.

There's no escape from acknowledging how important they are, particularly in this day and age, after years of austerity and now facing Brexit and potentially major issues economically. There's added-value when you make donations to Alder Hey and to the Liverpool Phil. You're not just funding the orchestra or the doctors, you are also funding massive outreach community programmes.

The album cover features the Liver Bird wings street-art on Jamaica Street…
The Liver Bird is perceived worldwide as the symbol of Liverpool, so we're very grateful that the artist Paul Curtis agreed to allow us to have his magnificent mural on the cover.

Classical music albums have a certain type of cover and it was quite important to me that this didn't look like any another classical album, and was visually striking. In fact it doesn't look like any other album anyone's ever seen!


I'M PROUD TO HAVE *YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE* ON MY ALBUM, IT'S TRANSCENDED FOOTBALL AND MUSICAL THEATRE WITH A UNIVERSAL APPEAL THAT NEVER WANES – TESTAMENT TO HOW BEAUTIFULLY-WRITTEN IT IS



And there's a Fab Four reference too…
In the booklet for the CD there is a photo of me walking alongside the Beatles statue down at the waterfront, another well-visited spot. I feel like I'm following in the footsteps of the musical giants of our city. I'm sure it's like that for new players in the first team at Liverpool, realising they're stepping out onto the pitch and following in the footsteps of the likes of Kenny Dalglish and Ian Rush.

I have two tracks on the album which are Beatles-related. One is a Beatles track, *Blackbird* written by Lennon and McCartney, in a new arrangement by Alisdair Hogarth. The other is *The World You're Coming Into* from The Liverpool Oratorio which will be 30 years old next year, written by Paul McCartney and Carl Davis, which tells the story of Paul's childhood in Liverpool.

Sir Paul has had such a big influence on the city, not just musically but also through LIPA, and it was really important that we recognised that. And Cilla Black's *Liverpool Lullaby* is on the album as a tribute to her.

Where did you watch last season's Champions League final?
I was working at the opera house in Munich and I went with friends to a beer garden in an Irish pub where they had a giant screen. When I'm abroad I often have to find an Irish bar to be able to watch matches!

I was delighted for everybody and especially for Jürgen Klopp. He really has understood that in this city football is everything. Clearly the players love him and now he's achieving what seem like almost impossible things.

It was great to see Virgil van Dijk winning the UEFA player of the season too. A few years ago nobody would have believed that possible of a Liverpool player and I think that's all down to Klopp. He's good news for the club. The mural in the Baltic Triangle of him speaks volumes – that people have enough respect for him to paint something like that.

Do you think there would be any mileage in a classical album of Kop songs such as *Allez Allez Allez*?
If somebody wanted to produce a disc of football songs written into a classical style, they can go right ahead and ask me! If you feel really passionate about your team then singing songs to encourage them is part of that. However, *Allez Allez Allez* is not really something I would normally sing at work!

I gave an extended interview a while ago to The Anfield Wrap, deliberately made to try and dispel the notion that classical music is for a limited elite audience, and it had a hugely positive response. At the end of the day I'm a Scouser who grew up in a normal family, who just happens to be a classical musician.

When my version of *YNWA* came out, Liverpool FC tweeted about it and put it at the top of their official Spotify playlist, and companies like The Guide Liverpool made a video about it. It went to no1 in the classical chart simply because suddenly lots of Liverpool fans wanted to listen to it.

I guess that's the point about the album as well, in that it will hopefully have an impact in terms of positive publicity for the city and funding for the city's children. The more that we tie up music with football and with health, the more effective it will be.

Are perceptions of classical music changing?
I hope so. The world is changing, partly because of the way we now communicate. Social-media is a lot more immediate and so it means that if I put something out, a young person might well see it and not worry about whether it's termed 'classical music' – they'll just listen and decide whether they like it for its own sake.

That was the other thing with the album. I wanted it to appeal to a cross-section of people, but I've not dumbed down on it in terms of the style in which I sing or in my choice of tracks. I'm not in full-blown operatic mode but it's really important – to me at least – that people realise that, in the end, good music is good music and just because something's labelled classical music, it shouldn't put them off.

Some of our great Scouse classical-music stars, such as Paul Lewis, went to ordinary state schools, had no musical background at home, and found their way into music because of the Liverpool Phil or because of a music teacher at school. It's really important that we get children interested as early as possible so that the prejudices of previous generations don't filter down and we capture their interest.

There are opera companies like English Touring Opera who tour all over the country and whose ticket prices are nothing like if you were to go and sit in a box at the Royal Opera House in London. Welsh National Opera and Opera North both tour to Liverpool.

I would say: "Give it a go." Watching opera live, with its orchestra, costumes, set and singers singing without amplification, may surprise you, and you might end up a fan even if you didn't intend to be one!

A Love Letter To Liverpool is released by Rubicon Classics and is available now to purchase and across all streaming platforms. All proceeds will support the children of Liverpool via Alder Hey Children's Charity and the Liverpool Philharmonic's Youth Company.





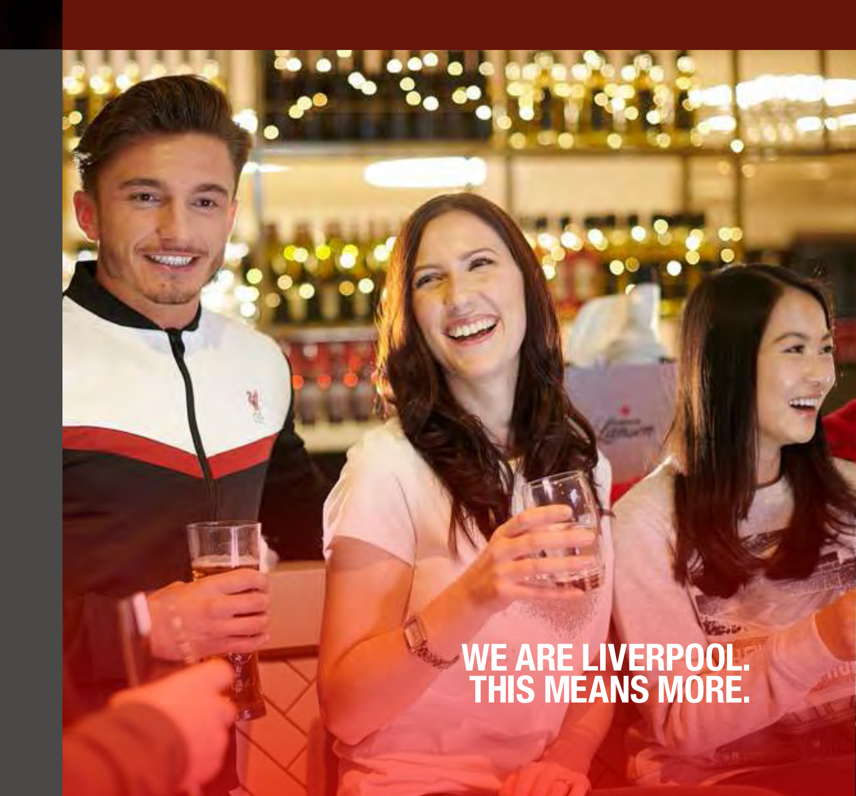


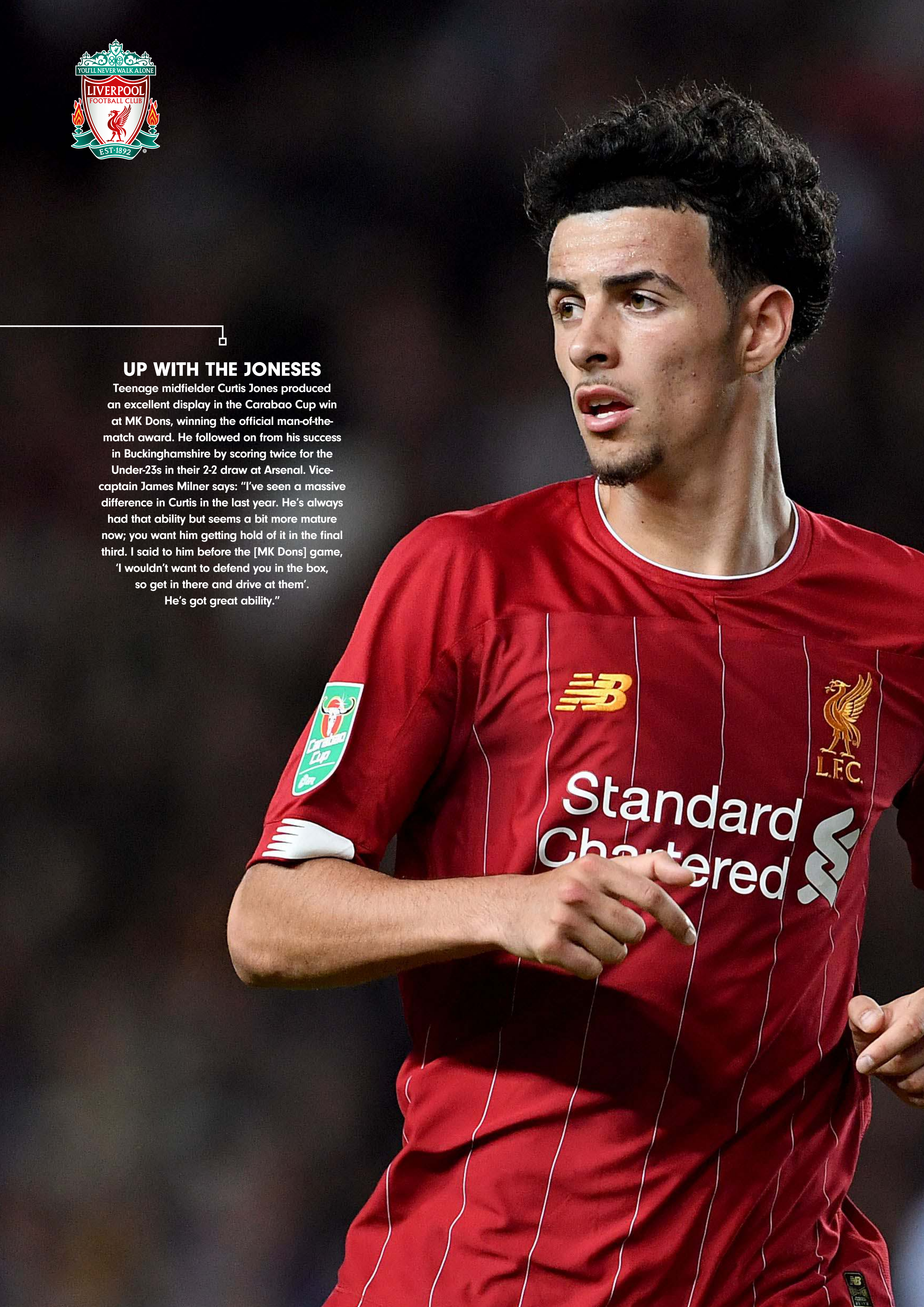
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UP WITH THE JONESES

Teenage midfielder Curtis Jones produced an excellent display in the Carabao Cup win at MK Dons, winning the official man-of-the-match award. He followed on from his success in Buckinghamshire by scoring twice for the Under-23s in their 2-2 draw at Arsenal. Vice-captain James Milner says: "I've seen a massive difference in Curtis in the last year. He's always had that ability but seems a bit more mature now; you want him getting hold of it in the final third. I said to him before the [MK Dons] game, 'I wouldn't want to defend you in the box, so get in there and drive at them'. He's got great ability."



450 UNDER JK AT MK

James Milner ended a wait for a League Cup goal which was approaching a decade when he opened the scoring in the 2-0 win at MK Dons. The vice-captain led by example at Stadium MK and also created the other goal on the night for Ki-Jana Hoever. His last League Cup strike had been from the penalty-spot for Aston Villa in the 2010 final against Manchester United. Milner's goal was also Liverpool's 450th under Jürgen Klopp in the manager's 218th game in charge.


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KEEPING IT CLEAN

LFC thanks Alley Angels for the inspiring difference they're making to Anfield

Liverpool FC recently teamed up with Your Housing Group and Alley Angels to host a community clean-up event in Anfield, taking to the streets of L4 as part of Keep Britain Tidy's #litterheroes campaign.

Alley Angels and its team of dedicated volunteers carry out weekly clean-ups throughout the local area, with a specific focus such as litter-picking, weed-pulling, alley-brushing, fence-painting, recycling promotion or solar-lighting installation.

The group then headed to Sue's Butterfly Garden in Anfield Village for food and refreshments including locally-made pies provided by Homebaked. Next stop was Anfield Stadium for a networking session which included a recognition ceremony for regular Alley Angels volunteers and an appearance from official club mascot, Mighty Red.

Sarah Blackhurst, LFC's resident-liaison manager, says: "We've been supporting Alley Angels over the last six months and the initiative is going from strength-to-strength, which is great to see. It's brilliant to be involved in a community event like this and bring some of our club staff down to meet the volunteers and help out with the clean-up activities.

"We're really excited about working alongside Alley Angels going forward and supporting them in their continued mission to improve their local neighbourhood."

To date, over 50 local residents have been involved in the initiative, giving more than 645 hours of their collective time to improve their local area and boosting recycling rates in Anfield Village by over 80 per cent.



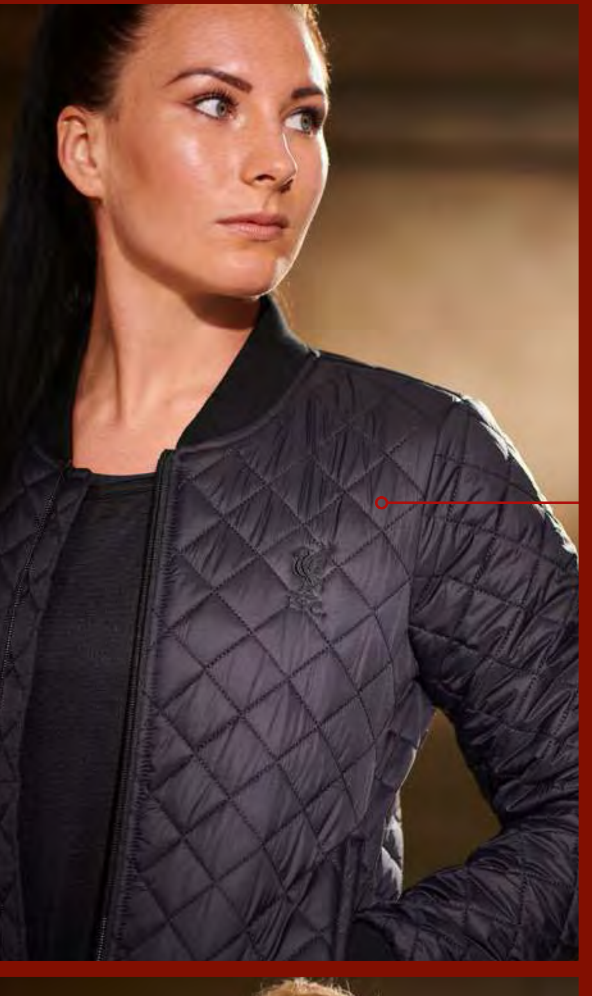
Your Housing Group's community-regeneration officer and Alley Angels team-leader, James Coates, adds: "Liverpool Football Club has been really supportive and has gone the extra mile at every opportunity to support the Alley Angels in their mission to keep the streets and alleyways of Anfield in top condition for local residents to use.

"The volunteers are mainly residents who live within the local community and seeing them receive their recognition certificates today was really emotional. You could see just how much it meant to them.

"We'd like to say a big thank you to LFC from everyone at Alley Angels."

Anyone wishing to join the Alley Angels can contact James on 07795 471359 or follow @AlleyAngels on Twitter for more information.

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What's On

OCT/NOV

BIG-GAME MENTALITY

Liverpool face two big Premier League games before October is out as they prepare to lock horns with Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur.

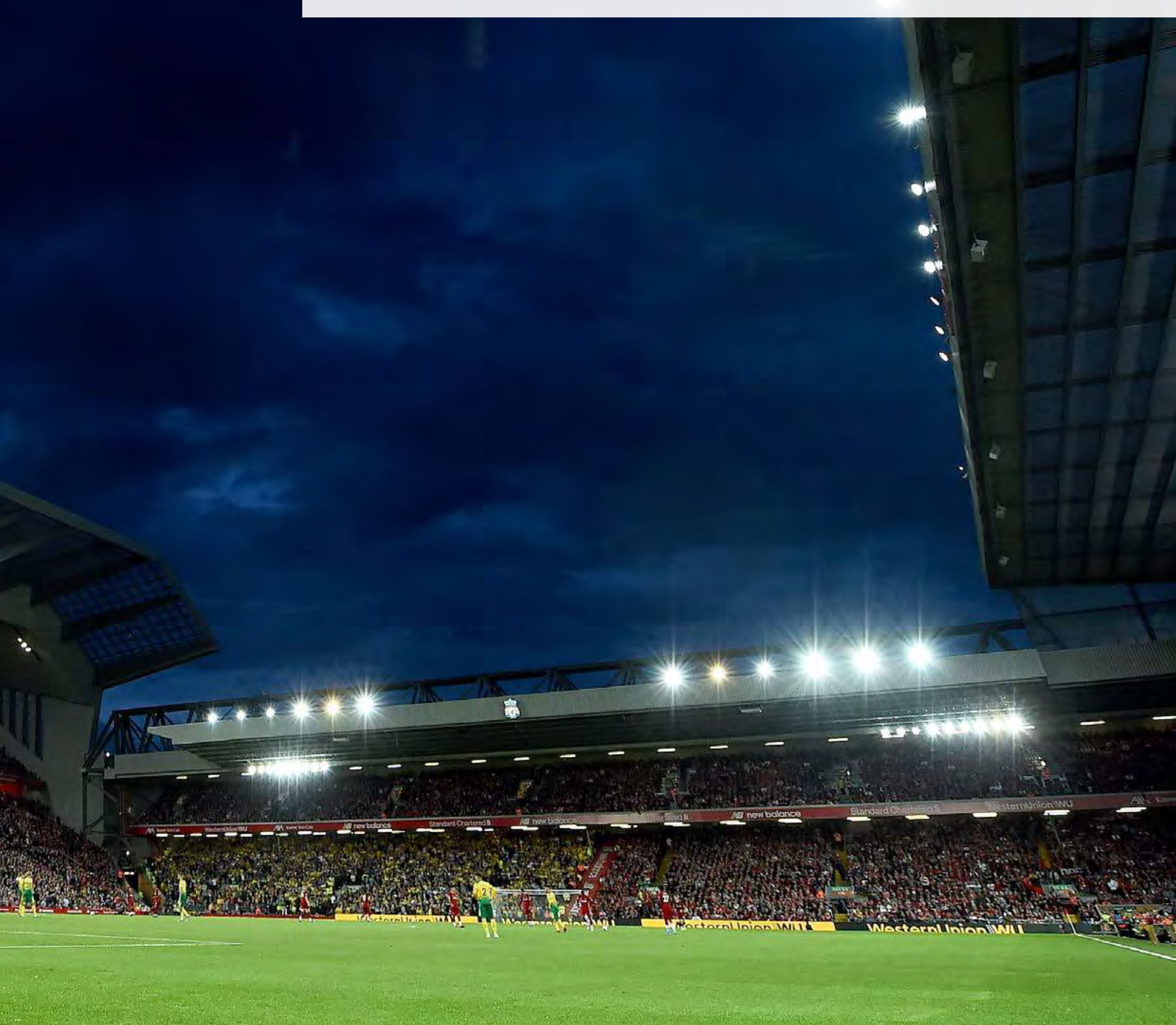
The Reds resume after the second international break of the season with a trip to Old Trafford on Sunday 20 October. Jürgen Klopp, who celebrates the fourth anniversary of his appointment as Reds boss on 8 October, has yet to lead Liverpool to victory at Manchester United and it will be something to tick off his bucket-list.

In fact the Reds have not won on their last five visits with their last success on the Red Devils' home turf coming in March 2014 when they triumphed 3-0.

A week after that potentially tasty engagement, there will be a re-run of last season's UEFA Champions League final when Spurs visit Anfield.

The last two Premier League fixtures with Mauricio Pochettino's men in L4 have produced dramatic finishes with last-minute goals – who could forget Toby Alderweireld's 90th-minute own-goal at the Kop-end last season? If these things happen in threes, prepare to hold on to your seats!

Three days later Tottenham's North London rivals Arsenal are at Anfield for a Carabao Cup round-four clash with a place in the quarter-finals up for grabs.



OCT/NOV

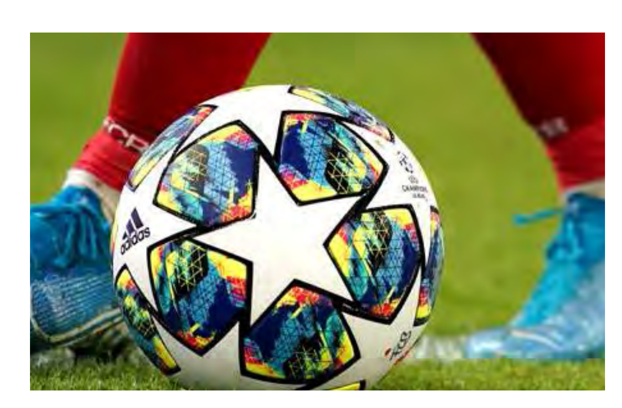
What's On

A DATE WITH THE SMURFS

The Reds' UEFA Champions League campaign continues on Wednesday 23 October with a trip to Belgium to take on KRC Genk at the 21,5000-capacity Fenixstadion.

It will be the first meeting between the clubs. Genk, who are nicknamed The Smurfs after the Belgian comic franchise, were champions for the fourth time last season.

The club were only formed in 1988 following a merger of local clubs Waterschei and Winterslag, two teams who represented workers from the town's declining coal industry. They have become known for their youth development and helped produce players such as Divock Origi and Christian Benteke as well as Kevin de Bruyne, Kalidou Koulibaly, Thibaut Courtois and Leon Bailey.



ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...

54 years since Liverpool defeated Juventus 2-0 in a European Cup Winners Cup first-round second leg at Anfield on 13 October 1965.

32 years since Ray Houghton joined the club on 19 October 1987.

4 years since the Reds drew 1-1 with Rubin Kazan at Anfield in Jürgen Klopp's first home match as LFC manager on 22 October 2015.

127 years since Matt McQueen and his brother Hugh made their debuts in LFC's first FA Cup tie at Anfield on 29 October 1892.

35 years since Ian Rush scored five for the Reds against Luton Town on 29 October 1983.

97 years since Harry Chambers scored a hat-trick in a 5-1 derby win over Everton at Anfield on 7 October 1922.

And it will be 45 years since defender Phil Neal signed for the Reds on 9 October 1974...

Eight league titles. Four European Cups (the only LFC player to play in four winning finals, scoring in two). Four League Cups. One UEFA Cup. Club captaincy. Fifty caps for England.

That was Phil Neal's roll of honour at Liverpool. He was also a penalty expert with no-one scoring as many spot kicks for the club (38) until Jan Molby hit 42, and more recently Steven Gerrard (47).

It is 45 years since he moved to Anfield from Northampton although he felt his dream move was in danger of being scuppered by an injury to the Cobblers' goalkeeper.

In October 1974, Bob Paisley decided Neal was a man he wanted and a delegation from Liverpool set off to watch the then 23-year-old one last time, bringing along club director (and one-time chairman) Sidney Reakes to show him what the club's £66,000 was being spent on. However, it wasn't the performance they were expecting from Neal.

He picks up the story: "For the first 20 minutes I played at right-back but there was an injury [to the keeper] and I spent the rest of the game in goal.

"I was fuming – I thought it was going to ruin my career!"



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Bruce Grobbelaar 62 on 6 October

Trent Alexander-Arnold 21 on 7 October

Sami Hyypia 46 on 7 October

Xherdan Shaqiri 28 on 10 October

Niamh Fahey 32 on 13 October

Ben Woodburn 20 on 15 October



Andy Lonergan 36 on 19 October

Sophie Bradley-Auckland 30 on 20 Oct

Chris Lawler 76 on 20 October

Ian Rush 58 on 20 October

Fabinho 26 on 23 October

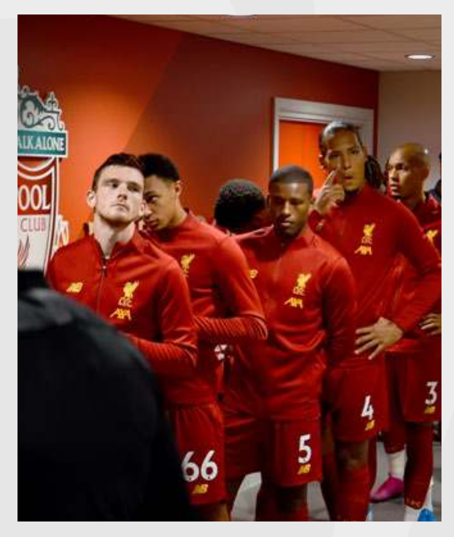
Willie Stevenson 80 on 26 October



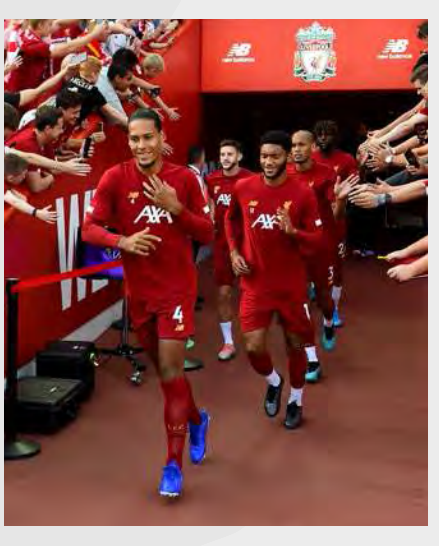
2019/20 Fixtures & Results

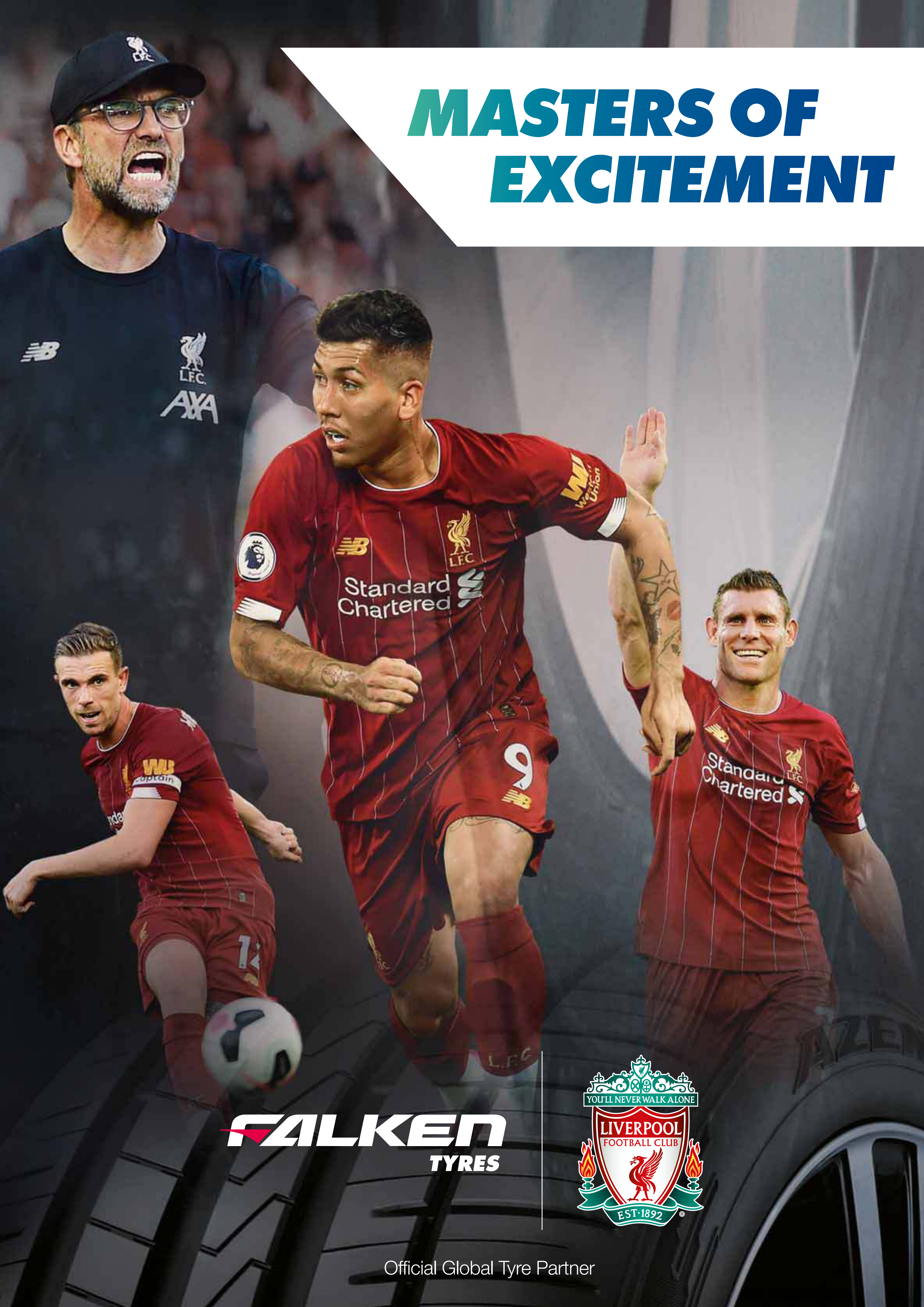
AUGUST		SCORE/KO	TV	SCORERS
Sun 04	Manchester City (CS, N)	1-1*	BT	Matip (pens: Shaqiri, Lallana, Chamberlain, Salah)
Fri 09	Norwich City (H)	4-1	Sky	Hanley (OG), Salah, Van Dijk, Origi
Wed 14	Chelsea (Super Cup, N)	2-2**	BT	Mane 2 (pens: Firmino, Fabinho, Origi, A-Arnold, Salah)
Sat 17	Southampton (A)	2-1		Mane, Firmino
Sat 24	Arsenal (H)	3-1	Sky	Matip, Salah 2 (1 pen)
Sat 31	Burnley (A)	3-0	Sky	Wood (OG), Mane, Firmino
SEPTEMBER				
Sat 14	Newcastle United (H)	3-1	BT	Mane 2, Salah
Tue 17	Napoli (UCL Matchday 1, A)	0-2	BT	
Sun 22	Chelsea (A)	2-1	Sky	Alexander-Arnold, Firmino
Wed 25	MK Dons (Carabao Cup 3, A)	2-0	Sky	Milner, Hoever
Sat 28	Sheffield United (A)	1-0	BT	Wijnaldum
OCTOBER				
Wed 02	Salzburg (UCL Matchday 2, H)	8pm	BT	
Sat 05	Leicester City (H)	3pm		
Sun 20	Manchester United (A)	4.30pm	Sky	
Wed 23	Genk (UCL Matchday 3, A)	8pm	BT	
Sun 27	Tottenham Hotspur (H)	4.30pm	Sky	
TBC	Arsenal (Carabao Cup 4)	TBC		
NOVEMBER				
Sat 02	Aston Villa (A)	3pm		
Tue 05	Genk (UCL Matchday 4, H)	8pm	BT	
Sun 10	Manchester City (H)	4.30pm	Sky	
Sat 23	Crystal Palace (A)	3pm		
Wed 27	Napoli (UCL Matchday 5, H)	8pm	BT	
Sat 30	Brighton (H)	3pm		
DECEMBER				
Wed 04	Everton (H)	8pm	AP	
Sat 07	Bournemouth (A)	3pm		
Tue 10	Salzburg (UCL Matchday 6, A)	5.55pm	BT	
Sat 14	Watford (H)	3pm		
T/W 17/18	Club World Championship SF	TBC		
Wed 18	Carabao Cup QF	TBC		
Sat 21	Club World Championship F/3rd	TBC		
Thu 26	Leicester City (A)	3pm	AP	
Sat 28	Wolverhampton W (H)	3pm		
JANUARY				
Wed 01	Sheffield United (H)	3pm		
Sat 04	FA Cup 3	TBC		
Wed 08	Carabao Cup SF 1	TBC		
Sat 11	Tottenham Hotspur (A)	3pm		
Sat 18	Manchester United (H)	3pm		
Tue 21	Wolverhampton W (A)	7.45pm		
Sat 25	FA Cup 4	TBC		
Wed 29	Carabao Cup SF 2	TBC		
FEBRUARY				
Sat 01	Southampton (H)	3pm		
Sat 08/15	Norwich City (A)	TBC		
T/W 18/19	UCL last 16 1	TBC	BT	
Sat 22	West Ham United (H)	3pm		
T/W 25/26	UCL last 16 1	TBC	BT	
Sat 29	Watford (A)	3pm		
MARCH				
Sun 01	Carabao Cup final (N)	TBC		
Wed 04	FA Cup 5	TBC		
Sat 07	Bournemouth (H)	3pm		
T/W 10/11	UCL last 16 2	TBC	BT	
Sat 14	Everton (A)	3pm		
T/W 17/18	UCL last 16 2	TBC	BT	
Sat 21	Crystal Palace (H)	3pm		
Sat 21	FA Cup 6	TBC		
APRIL				
Sat 04	Manchester City (A)	3pm		
T/W 07/08	UCL QF 1	TBC	BT	
Sat 11	Aston Villa (H)	3pm		
T/W 14/15	UCL QF 2	TBC	BT	
Sat 18	Brighton (A)	3pm		
Sat 18	FA Cup SF	TBC		
Sat 25	Burnley (H)	3pm		
T/W 28/29	UCL SF 1	TBC	BT	
MAY				
Sat 02	Arsenal (A)	3pm		
T/W 05/06	UCL SF 2	TBC	BT	
Sat 09	Chelsea (H)	3pm		
Sun 17	Newcastle United (A)	3pm		
Sat 23	FA Cup final (N)	TBC		
Sat 30	UCL final (N)	TBC	BT	
TBC	West Ham United (A)	TBC		

All fixtures subject to change. AP = Amazon Prime *lost 5-4 on pens ** won 5-4 on pens








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NEIL MELLOR

There could be exciting times ahead for Liverpool's next generation of talent

The Carabao Cup takes on less importance for Liverpool Football Club because we are competing at the top-end of the Premier League and Champions League. They are the prime targets.

Instead the Carabao Cup is a competition that provides an opportunity for young players and I remember being in that position myself at Liverpool. I used to want us to draw lower-league clubs as it gave me more chance of playing.

Liverpool's young players will have been delighted to draw MK Dons and Jürgen Klopp gave them an opportunity, but when the Reds faced Chelsea at home in the same round last season no young players started. They certainly repaid their manager with their performances at Stadium MK.

Three young players made their debuts from the start: Harvey Elliott, Rhian Brewster and Caoimhin Kelleher. Elliott, in particular, caught the eye.

Young players develop at different rates and very few are anywhere near senior level at 16, so it was phenomenal to see Elliott play so well against established League One players. He looked comfortable, was effective and involved throughout.

That's a credit to Harvey, but also a reminder to lads at the Academy who are 15 to 17 that you're not all at the same level at that age. It's important for them not to lose heart, but to look at Elliott's attitude and performances for the Under-23s, in the EFL Trophy when he scored against Oldham, and in training as an example to follow.

Elliott was outstanding at MK Dons and his performance got Liverpool fans talking, but the reality is game-time may only come in the Carabao Cup or FA Cup. It'll be difficult for him to play in the Premier League or Champions League, so now he's had a taste of first-team football he needs to knuckle down, listen to the coaching staff and close out any outside distractions.

There are people who'll want a piece of Harvey Elliott – agents, advisors, hangers-on. It's important that he listens to his family and Liverpool's coaches because if he avoids those distractions there are exciting times ahead.

Brewster is a player I really like. His movement is outstanding, his ability to finish is brilliant. He'll be disappointed not to have scored at Stadium MK but that's no bad thing. The manager thinks an awful lot of him – he was on the bench for the Champions League semi-final and final last season – and only an untimely injury has held him back.

Rhian will get more game-time, I've no doubt about that, and if he keeps working hard to show the talent he's got I believe he will score a lot of goals for Liverpool.

I also rate Kelleher. Whenever I've seen him I've liked his attitude. He plays with a smile on his face and has been competing for a few years with Kamil Grabara, a talented young goalkeeper currently out on loan at Huddersfield.

Kelleher has learned a lot from training with Alisson, he's learned a lot from working with John Achterberg and I thought his decision-making was outstanding against MK Dons.

Sometimes young players make bad decisions due to nerves, but Kelleher only made good decisions and good saves – one of which, at 2-0, was outstanding and prevented a momentum change in the game.

I've seen this side of Kelleher in Academy matches. There are games when he doesn't have a lot to do but then makes a great save at an important moment. His concentration levels are clearly there and I'm pleased he kept a clean-sheet on his debut.

The manager said after the fourth-round draw was made that he'll stick with this group of players against Arsenal, but a lot can change in a month. Some first-team players may need a game and playing at Anfield is a different challenge because the pressure is much greater.

Playing in front of 50,000 is exciting, but if you make a bad touch you'll hear about it. That's when you see if a young player can really cope with first-team football as some will thrive upon it, others will struggle. The manager will decide who is ready, and who isn't.



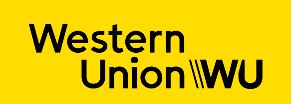
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